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Dolphin Profile

Kiya

Born 13 December 1997

Kiya is Puck's fifth calf and was introduced to the provisioning program in May 2016. Kiya often visits the beach with her sister Piccolo and other females of the Puck family. Genetic sampling has shown that Kiya and Piccolo are full sisters. This means they have the same mother (Puck) and father (Real Notch). Fathers do not associate with their offspring beyond the act of mating with their mother.

Kiya gave birth to her first calf, Khamun (27/12/2009), when she was 12 years old. Khamun disappeared in August 2010 when she was eight months old. Kiya's second calf is Wirriya (b. 07/11/2012). Wirriya is pronounced 'widd-ee-ya' and has special significance as it has been taken from the local Aboriginal language of Malgana, meaning sea/salt water. Kiya's third calf is called Jindi (b. 20/12/2018) which means quiet in Malgana. Wirriya and Jindi sometimes join their mum during the morning dolphin experiences as females tend to remain close to their mothers throughout their lives. Kiya's fourth and fifth calves Maya (meaning home in Malgana, b. 02/12/2021) and Maru (meaning night in Malgana, b. 19/01/2023) unfortunately did not survive past one month of age. Kiya's most recent calf is a male called Wigi, meaning bubbles in Malgana (b. 27/02/2024).

Kiya and her family have a home range of the Monkey Mia coastline and are known as the coastal foragers or 'beachies', named for their common occurrence at the beaches here. Kiya can often be seen in the afternoons foraging and chasing fish at impressive speeds along the shoreline near the Dolphin Experience Area. Dolphins can reach speeds of up to 40km/hour and change direction very quickly whilst fishing. It is important to remember that the water is the dolphins' home; so if we see Kiya or other dolphins fishing, respect their space and give them room to fish, socialise and do other dolphin behaviours.



Spotting Kiya

You can identify Kiya and all the other dolphins by their dorsal fins. Kiya's fin is very distinctive; it is very broad and triangular like the rest of the Puck family. It has two notches, about ten centimetres below the tip, and several rake mark scars along each side of the fin. Kiya also boasts an impressive shark bite scar on her back, between her dorsal fin and peduncle, which is the size of a dinner plate. She received this bite at the young age of two years old in March 2000.



To get to know these dolphins why not consider volunteering?

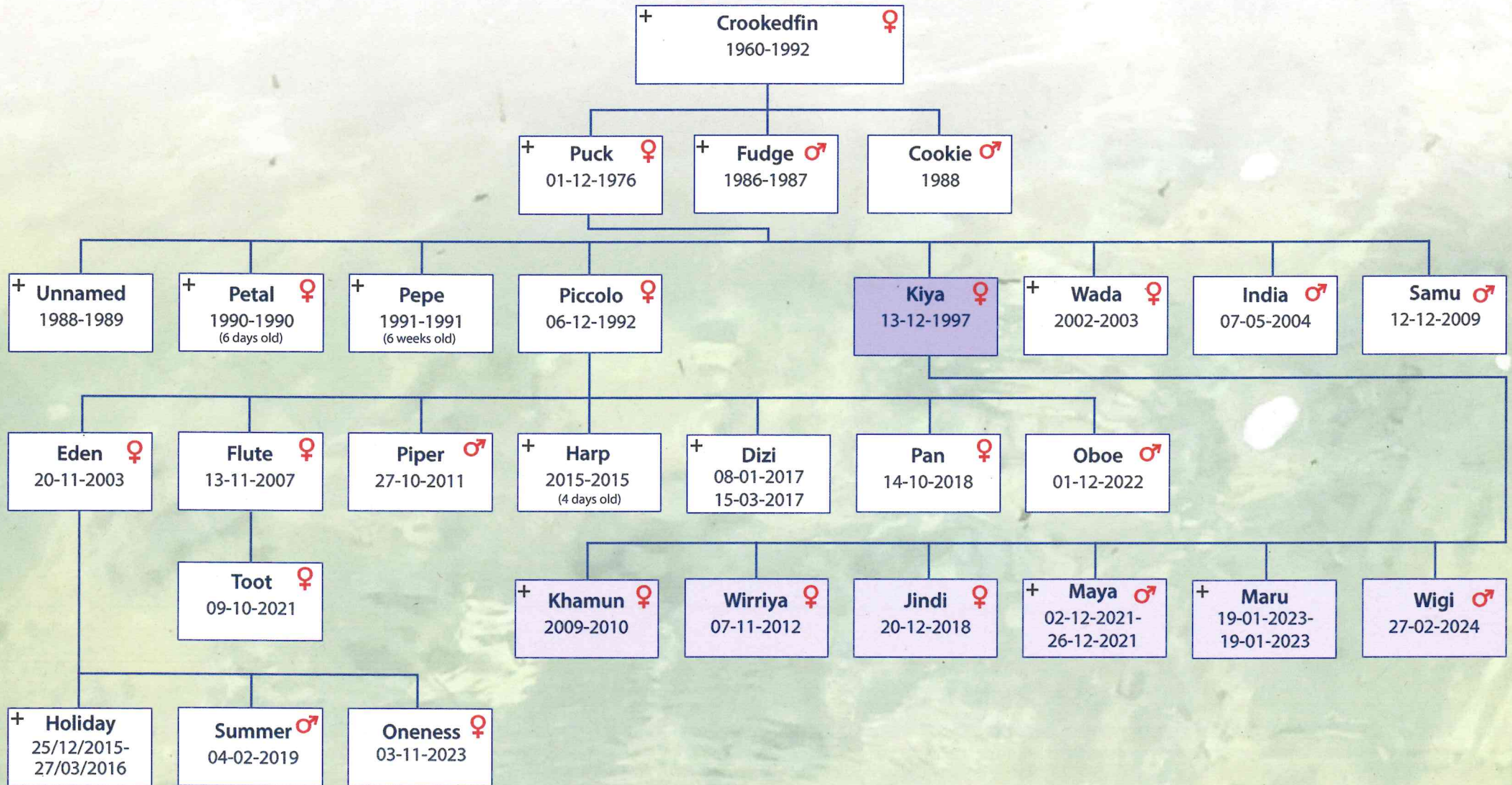


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Kiya's family tree



+ Deceased



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