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MEDIA RELEASE

Baby Dolphin ‘*Khamun*’ enters the world

Monkey Mia welcomes another new addition with baby Khamun being born on 27th December 2009, the second arrival within two weeks.

Named by the students of Shark Bay Primary school, Khamun is the first calf born to Kiya, one of the areas regular beach visiting dolphins. Kiya’s mother Puck also gave birth just two weeks prior to Samu.

Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Shark Bay district manager Brett Fitzgerald said the name Khamun was chosen because of its relationship with the calf’s mother’s name.

“A competition was run in *The West Australian* newspaper in 1997 to choose Kiya’s name. Egyptian history experts list Kiya as possibly the mother of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun and *Khamun* is an interpretation of the name Tutankhamun” he said.

Khamun’s arrival so close to Samu was a surprise with Kiya giving birth to Khamun approximately 6 weeks earlier than predicted.

Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort Duty Manager, Maria Cozis said that it was no surprise that during the first few days Khamun demonstrated a vivacious personality.

“Khamun displayed a very lively and active personality during the first days of life, and that is what we would expect from Kiya’s first offspring, as Kiya herself showed the same characteristics throughout her childhood and adolescent years”

Khamun brings the total number of dolphins that regularly visit Monkey Mia to 15 which is the largest number recorded since changes to the dolphin management regime in 1995.

The presence of two very young calves in the group of dolphins that visit Monkey Mia will be closely managed by DEC to ensure that visitors can enjoy interacting with these animals while protecting their welfare.

For more information on DEC – Dolphin behaviour and research visit www.dec.wa.gov.au

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For more information please contact:

Ms Jan Potter - Director of Sales – Aspen Resorts

Email - janp@aspenresorts.com.au Mobile – 0424 323 989