

To all our club members, customers, staff & friends,

At Aquatic Adventures we were pleased to hear the press conference, and read the official statement, from the Victorian Premier regarding the positive progress the whole state has made with regards to the current Covid-19 pandemic. The easing of some restrictions around what we can and can't do during the crisis will come as a much needed morale boost in these trying times, and it is wonderful to know that some diving activities will be able to resume from Wednesday.

However, the crisis is not over. Corona virus has not disappeared, a cure has not yet been found, and it behoves us as a responsible society to remain vigilant and ensure that the crisis truly passes before we return to "life as usual".

Current medical evidence shows that contracting Covid-19 has severely detrimental long-term effects on the respiratory system. Patients can make a "full recovery" and resume their day-to-day lives, but the aftereffects mean they will likely not pass a dive medical and therefore are no longer safe to Scuba Dive.

At Aquatic Adventures we love diving, and it is not just a job to us, it is our passion and our obsession. We don't want to lose the ability to go diving, so we certainly don't want to risk contracting Covid-19.

As is written in the Premier's statement, "just because you can, doesn't mean you should". Australia as a whole, and Victoria in particular has done amazing things in our battle against this global pandemic, and there is nowhere we would rather be in these trying times. However, no-one wants to squander what has been achieved, end up taking a step backwards, and possibly be responsible for the loss of someone we love, or even someone we've never met! Therefore, it is the management's decision at Aquatic Adventures to follow the Premier's continuing message: "if you can stay at home, you must stay at home."

To that end, we have decided that our policies moving forwards, at least until such time as new cases of Covid-19 cease to appear, will be as follows:

- We will continue to be open in-store just as we have been throughout the crisis so far – customers must call ahead to ensure we can maintain adequate social distancing in the store, and not have too many people here at any one time.
- The drop-off and pick-up windows will be removed, however we will still require a 24hr turnaround time for tank fills to ensure adequate time for disinfection protocols.
- The trying on of equipment will be possible, however there will continue to be a \$5 cleaning fee to cover disinfection thereafter.

- We will continue to run theory for dive courses via online learning only, with the dives to be organised at a later date when we can **guarantee** a safe environment for all the students and staff.
- We will **NOT** be organising any club activities, until at least the end of May, when the Premier will announce the next round of changes.
- Customers entering the store will be expected to utilise the hand sanitiser provided and to respect all social distancing requirements.
- If you find yourself experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms, we ask that you get yourself tested, and please do not be offended if we politely refuse you entry & service in-store until such time as you are given a clean bill of health.

If you are nervous to get back out and diving, and would like us to organise a private guide for you, we are happy to ask our contractors, let them decide if they want the work, and we will make the necessary introductions. They can then organise directly with you to get you back out in the water.

We are still open for air-fills, equipment rental (including long-term options), sales, servicing & courses, and we are still available to answer all your questions.

Our recommendation is that you only dive with 1 or 2 buddies you know well & who are of a similar experience level to you. Make sure you stay well within your limits and comfort zone, and be conscious of all social distancing restrictions.

Everyone is going to be rushing out to try and do all the things they haven't been able to of late, so please remember to be sensible & follow all guidelines so we don't have to go back into lockdown!

Above all, stay safe, stay healthy, don't be reckless, and we look forward to a true return to normal very soon!

All the best

The Management at Aquatic Adventures