



## Disclaimer

1. As a diver certified by a known training agency or as a non-diver seeking such certification I understand that I am responsible for myself, and my diving, and agree to dive within the limits imposed by my training, ability and experience. I understand that Wellington Underwater Club (WUC) activities are NOT organised by a training agency, nor is WUC affiliated directly to any training agency, and hence there may not be professional divers on club dives. When there are professionally qualified divers participating in club activities, I understand that while they may oversee the diving operations and do their utmost to ensure general safety, they are not working, and that they are not responsible for me, my diving or my dive equipment and that I am solely responsible for these things.

2. Diving is a dangerous activity. I understand that partaking in SCUBA and free diving activities involves inherent risks and can result in injuries that may require specific treatment (such as in a recompression chamber). I understand that trips can be at remote locations some distance from such a facility. I agree that by signing up on such activities and dive trips I choose to personally accept and assume responsibility for such risks.

3. In arranging club activities, WUC is simply undertaking an organisational role for the benefit of club members. While every endeavour is made to ensure club activities are safe, ultimately personal safety, especially in diving, is an individual responsibility. I understand that neither the trip organiser, the skipper, crew members, other WUC members or any other persons on club activities, may be held liable or responsible in any way for injury, death or other damages to me, my family, heirs, my belongings, equipment or assigns that may occur as a result of my participation in this trip as a result of negligence of any of the aforementioned parties, whether passive or active.

4. I understand that WUC is encouraging club members to further their training through certified training facilities; however, WUC may assist only as booking agent for these activities.

5. I agree that by signing up for the use of club gear I choose to personally accept and assume responsibility for the use of club gear (as per sections 1-4). Furthermore, I agree to not exceed manufacturer's recommendations for club gear. I understand that it is my own responsibility to ensure that all parts of the club gear are fully functional prior to use and that the gear is maintained to manufacturer's recommendation.

6. Pre Dive Assessment and Disclosure: I understand and agree that I will only take part in club activities if (a) I feel fine, ready for the activity and I have the appropriate clothing, footwear and dive equipment; (b) I am physically, mentally and medically fit and ready for the activity; (c) I have read, reviewed and signed any waivers for the activity. Furthermore, I will not participate under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any medication contraindicative to diving. I am aware that I must assemble and check all equipment to ensure that it is fully functioning and that I must report any adjustments and repairs to club gear completed before, during and following the dive. I agree to return club gear in good condition or report any faults. I agree that I will not take part in any activities if there are conditions or problems that would prohibit me from diving safely or in activities that exceed limits imposed by my training and certification.

# **WUC Scuba Dive Activities Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**

All Club members must read, adhere and have access to:

- WUC Scuba Dive Activities Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
- Emergency Management Plan (we recommend you carry a copy with your dive gear)
- Sign-Up and Renewal Form, including disclaimer

Club members using Dive Propulsion Vehicles (also referred to as DPV or scooter) must in addition read, adhere and have access to:

- WUC Scooter Guideline
- Scooter User Disclaimer and Club Scooter Insurance Policy
- Scooter Manufacturer Manual (Halcyon DPV R14)

Read this document in combination with the Club Sign-up and Renewal form, the Dive Propulsion Vehicle (DPV or scooter) documentation, the Dive Emergency Management Plan and references within those documents.

## **Scuba Diving**

All club members accept personal responsibility for their activities when participating in Club events and acknowledge the inherent risks associated with scuba and free-diving activities. To document this anyone joining or renewing their membership or participating as a guest in Club activities must sign the relevant documentation and adhere to internationally accepted standard safety recommendations of the dive industry. Anyone under the age of 18 must obtain approval of a legal guardian before participating in Club activities.

The Club expects responsible and safety-conscious behaviour of every member in line with their training when participating in Club activities to minimise risk associated to dive activities. In particular we expect members to plan their dive and perform a pre-dive safety check in line with members' certification and check weather and marine forecast before every dive.

Special consideration for dives in the Wellington area should be given to currents, wind, water temperature (cold water exposure), visibility and boat traffic.

## **Scooter Use**

Divers must perform specific training and obtain a DPV certification from an internationally recognized dive training agency before using Club scooters. Divers must familiarize themselves with the relevant scooter manual for correct use and handling. The Club expects members to use scooters as taught during certification.

Club members with scooter dive experience will be available as mentors to other club members for refresher and experience dives.

Divers who haven't been diving with a scooter within the last 6 month need to participate in a refresher mentoring dive with one of the club mentors and will have to review the DPV manufacturer's manual before the dive.

In case of any problems with the scooters the Club will not take responsibility nor reimburse costs associated with any missed dive opportunities. This includes all intended uses until the problem is solved.

# Dive Safety Information Presented by DAN Asia-Pacific

## Scuba Diving Safety Tips

(Tips provided by Stan Bugg and John Lippmann,

[http://www.danap.org/dan\\_diving\\_safety/scuba\\_safety\\_tips.php](http://www.danap.org/dan_diving_safety/scuba_safety_tips.php), links on this page retrieved on 22Aug2017)

All diving involves a degree of risk, because, after all, we are air-breathing mammals who have no sensible reason to be underwater. If we accept this premise, and admit to ourselves that we are voluntarily entering an alien environment, we are more likely to approach our diving with a sensible degree of caution. We must also acknowledge that we rely totally on our equipment while diving. These safety hints apply to ALL dives, and should be read in addition to those hints for specific types of diving.

- Be trained by a recognised agency. Such training will make you aware of the more common problems you will face underwater, and how to reduce the likelihood of these problems occurring.
- Be medically assessed by a doctor who has appropriate training in diving medicine. Some medical conditions are not compatible with safe diving, while other conditions may allow you to dive safely with caution.
- Thoroughly prepare and check your gear prior to diving. You rely totally on your equipment while underwater.
- Choose dives that match your training, experience and confidence. Always dive within your comfort zone. \* Listen to your inner voice. If you do not feel right while underwater, or you feel that you have exceeded your comfort level, abort the dive.
- When you first reach the bottom, establish neutral buoyancy, ensure your ears are OK, check your air status and your depth, tighten your weightbelt, then signal your buddy that you are OK. Make these actions a standard part of ALL dives.
- Watch your ascent rate on all dives. You should never exceed an ascent rate of 10m/minute when diving shallower than about 30m. An ascent rate of 5-6 metres per minute is recommended in the last 10m of ascent.
- Complete safety stops on all dives that exceed 10m depth. Safety stops assist with reduction of excess nitrogen, which reduces the risk of DCI. They also slow your ascent rate, by forcing you to stop for a period of time. The rule of thumb is 3-5 minutes at 5-6 metres. An additional deeper stop of 2-3 minutes at 10-15m appears to be beneficial after deeper dives.
- Always dive with a buddy. Your safety and your enjoyment will be enhanced by being with a companion while underwater.
- Plan your dive. You and your buddy should agree on depth, time, air cut-off, and safety stops.

- Plan your dive so you surface with a minimum of 50 bar. Don't look at it as wasted air, but as insurance against the possibility of some emergency that causes your air consumption to increase.
- If you have had a layoff from diving, or you have been unwell, do some easier dives to regain your confidence and skill.
- Revise your skills regularly. Practise such survival skills as mask-clearing, regulator removal, and air-sharing regularly.
- Log your dives. A record of your diving history may come in very handy should you ever seek higher levels of training.

#### DIVING MEDICAL QUESTIONS – DAN DOC

Follow the link below to find all the answers to many common and some less common questions relating to diving medical issues. [http://www.danap.org/DAN\\_diving\\_safety/DAN\\_Doc/main.html](http://www.danap.org/DAN_diving_safety/DAN_Doc/main.html)

#### DIVING EMERGENCIES

As divers, we hope to never find ourselves in need of emergency medical assistance as a result of a diving accident. However, statistics highlight that accidents do happen, even to the most experienced divers, so we should all have a plan of action that will prepare us for the unexpected. If you ever find yourself in an emergency situation, when in New Zealand, your first step should be to call the Diving Emergency Services (DES) Medical Hotline on 0800 4 DES 111 (0800 4 337 111):

- To obtain rapid medical advice from a doctor or medic trained in diving medicine. The doctor/medic will assess the situation and advise the immediate course of action that should be taken.
- The doctor/medic will generally advise whether the person needs to go to a local hospital for assessment or whether an evacuation and/or treatment is required.
- The doctor/medic usually will not make the arrangements for transportation or treatment and will not be in a position to approve for a particular facility to provide treatment for a diver with DAN insurance and guarantee for DAN to cover the cost of treatment. This first call is to determine the immediate course of action.

NOTE: It is important to provide the doctor/medic with your DAN Membership details if available, and request that they contact DAN on your behalf. It is also important to have a call back number ready to give to the operator.

As we all know many of the world's top dive destinations are in remote areas that are difficult to access and often result in significant costs in terms of emergency evacuation and subsequent medical treatment. Therefore, DAN strongly recommends that all divers be adequately covered for such a contingency. And remember, if you are prepared for the unexpected you can focus on what's most important ... enjoying your diving!

For more information on safe diving, dive medicine and dive emergencies refer to DAN Asia Pacific website: [http://www.danap.org/DAN\\_diving\\_safety.php](http://www.danap.org/DAN_diving_safety.php)