



CANCELLATION NOTICE

The Organ Pipes Classic, Sunday 3rd May 2020

Why has the event been cancelled?

As you are all no doubt aware, COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic and continues to have an enormous impact here in Australia and around the world. The Australian government has recently restricted non-essential, organised public gatherings of more than 500 people. This precautionary measure is designed to reduce the community transmission of COVID-19. Social distancing is considered a vital step to reducing pressures on the health system and ultimately saving lives. All Australians are being encouraged to exercise personal responsibility for social distancing measures. As event organisers, we are particularly responsible to assist in minimising the spread of COVID-19 in the community and have therefore decided to cancel the event.

But the event has a maximum of 100 runners and is not for another 6 weeks?

The COVID-19 situation in Australia is predicted to worsen in the coming weeks and months. Limiting public gatherings to 500 people is likely to change. Other countries are currently banning public events with as little as 5 or 10 people, or even banning public gatherings altogether. The virus is highly contagious and easily spread, even by people that may not be showing any symptoms. Close contact is unavoidable at an event, and runners also tend to have compromised hygiene after physical exertion (think sweating, spitting, snot rockets – even heavy breathing releases respiratory droplets). The health and wellbeing of the community remains our priority. We have made the decision to cancel early to provide as much notice to runners as possible.

I've already registered – do I get a refund?

Yes, everyone already registered in *The Organ Pipes Classic* will be given a full refund. Refunds will be processed this week and the money should be back in your bank account soon. As I'm sure you will appreciate, we have already incurred costs planning for this event, and we will suffer a financial loss as a result. Please continue to support us by registering for another *kunanyi trail series* event in the future.

What about The Tolosa Half?

The Tolosa Half is scheduled for Sunday 2nd August and registrations for this event remain open. The COVID-19 situation is constantly changing, but we are hopeful that by August we will be good to go.

Where can I get more info on COVID-19?

World Health Organisation (www.who.int)

Australian Government Department of Health (www.health.gov.au)

Tasmanian Government Department of Health (www.dhhs.tas.gov.au)