ACIDE

AQUAVIC MADE IN AUSTRALIA

QUERCUS MAGNAE A GLANDIBUS CRESCANT

THE OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE OF THE AQUAVIC IONISER USER'S GROUP

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From the Director:
After many years of involvement with commercial air conditioning, a fair percentage of which revolved around cooling towers and controlling legionella, Aquavic was "born" in July 2000, and shortly afterwards we began producing **ACIDE**, our little chat sheet. And no, it's not a spelling error. It's actually an acronym for "**A C**oin **I**n **D**eep **E**nd" a crude but very effective method employed by one of our very first customers for determining the clarity of his pool water whereby a coin was flipped into the deep end of the pool and the clarity determined by the flipper's ability to read heads or tails. I did say that it was crude, but it was also remarkably effective - and the kids loved the challenged of who just who could get the coins first.

End of an Era:
ACIDE, in various forms, has been produced ever since, with distribution initially by post and email, and later as a download on our website, but recent decisions by Australia Post "*We Love Delivering*" to increase postage of standard letters from $0.45 to $0.70 was actually a blessing in disguise as it was the catalyst that caused us to stop posting newsletters altogether. We will, of course, continue to group-email active customers, and will continue to post each edition on our website, but, alas, the time and tedium – not to mention the expense - of printing, folding, stapling and posting dozens of hard copies of ACIDE has gone the way of whale bone corsets. A blessing in disguise really.

Yet another Satisfied Customer:
Whenever we send an ioniser package out into the big wide world, we rarely hear any more of it and are often left wondering if the product is performing to the customer's satisfaction. Or was it such a miserable failure that they've binned it and gone for something else. Yes, we do occasionally follow up with a site visit, email or a phone call, and, fortunately - and with very few exceptions - our customers are delighted with their New Millennium Ionisers, calling us only when they need a new pair of electrodes which, in some instances, can be as much as 8 to 10 years!

We recently received such a call from one of our customers, who, because of a chronic medical condition, was enquiring about sourcing of a non-chlorine oxidiser. Fortunately we were able to supply exactly what she needed. During our discussion it transpired that she was delighted with their ioniser and only too happy to write a testimonial and supply a picture of her pool, both of which are now on our website and Facebook page. In the meantime, the testimonial, which is so typical of the feedback we receive about our products, is reproduced here in full. It goes like this:

"*We are thrilled with the ionizer system which we bought from Aquavic. The water really sparkles all year round and needs very little attention or expense. Their friendly and informative assistance cannot be beaten. We have no idea why anyone would bother with chlorinated systems when this option is available. Also pleased to know that we are supporting and Australian-made product.*"

Ann & Paul
Narre Warren
Vic
23.01 2016

Ann and Paul's Pool, Narre Warren, Vic.

The picture above speaks for itself. Incidentally, it also makes a lie of the misinformation so freely offered by some of our opponents that ionisers are not suitable for vinyl-lined pools because they cause stains which are virtually impossible to remove. We addressed these vexatious claims in a previous edition, but this is the perfect opportunity do it again. In a nutshell, staining of vinyl liners certainly happens and it is not at all uncommon. But, as the manufacturers have found - and confirm on their websites - the staining is invariably caused by the excretions of bugs that thrive on the dry side of the liner. Their presence is invariably the result of poor or careless sanitising of the site prior to laying the liner, preparations that should have killed the bugs. Not the ioniser.

VS pumps – another view:
Our old hands will be well aware of my views on the wisdom of replacing a perfectly good single speed pool pump with one of those new fangled variable speed pumps with their claims of extraordinary energy dollar savings. I had promised not to say any more about the wisdom - or otherwise – of replacing a perfectly good single speed pump with a variable speed pump, but an article written by one of the industrie's major pool builders caught my attention because it supported my views. It goes like this:

"*I have seen too many examples of where these (variable speed) pumps do not do what the suppliers say they will. Our clients are left with pools that don't clean effectively and with power bills that are certainly not less than those of conventional single speed pump. On top of this, there are failures in electronics required to support them. We are in fact converting yet another pool back to a single speed pump today.*"

Incidentally, in spite of invitations to promoters of VS pumps to challenge my unpopular view, we have only had one response (from QLD) in three years, and, after a lengthy discussion, he reluctantly agreed with me that they do not save energy dollars *without adversely affecting the condition of your pool.*

Cartridge Filters and VS Pumps:
And speaking of VS pumps, if you just happen to have this particular combination on your pool ie a variable speed pump and a cartridge filter, the following may be of interest to you. We can't say this applies to all cartridge filters, but we do know from personal experience that if your pump is running at less than full speed, there is a very good chance that you're not using the whole of the cartridge for filtering in spite of the fact that you've bled the air from the top of the housing and believe that the whole housing is flooded. There's a very good chance that its not, and here's the reason why:

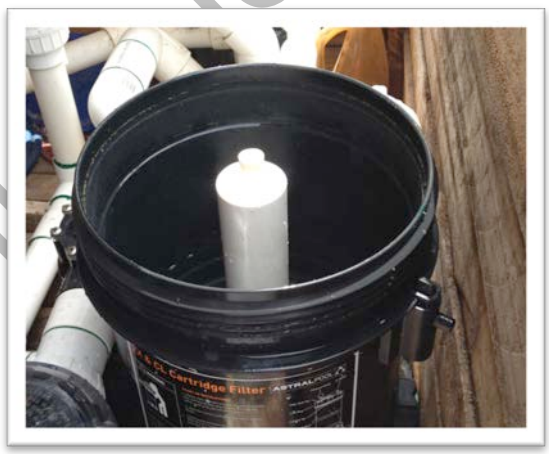
When the pump is running at full speed (usually around 2600 RPM & 80 -100 kPa) water under pressure rushes into, and floods the filter housing. Assuming that all entrapped air has been bled from the housing (small bleed valve in the top of the housing) the water is then forced through the pleated or wound (extended) surface of cartridge from the outside to the hollow centre section where the now-filtered water is returned to the pool via a collection port in the bottom.

You then select the lowest pump speed believing that the filter canister is still flooded. It was, for a while, but over time the water level in the canister drops to such an extent that you're now only working on the bottom third of the filter – or less. OK, then, I'll bleed the air out again, and Bob's your uncle.

Not so! At the now much reduced speed and flow rate, the pressure also drops to such an extent that the vital difference in pressure (*Delta P*) between the water entering and the water leaving is almost in equilibrium – and you're not filtering the water at all. And because the pressure is so low, you can't displace entrapped air. In fact, you're more likely to hear air being drawn *in* when you open the air bleed valve.

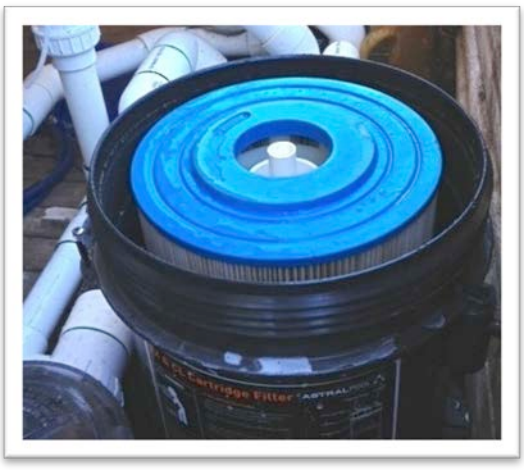
Pic:1 below shows a typical filter cartridge canister with the cartridge removed. (Ignore the small white pipe. It has no influence on this discussion.) To demonstrate my point, run the pump on the low speed setting now, and you'll see that the water enters and leaves without flooding the canister. If the cartridge were in place, you'd get the same result ie the water would only flow through the bottom part of the cartridge leaving the balance, high and dry – literally. So, what to do?

Pic: 1



Pic:2

What we did was to insert a "riser tube" - 50-mm PVC pipe with socket - into the port in the bottom of the filter (see **Pic:2**) the result now being that any water entering the filter – *irrespective of pump speed and pressure* – had to reach the top of the riser tube and flood the whole of the cartridge before returning to the pool via the riser tube, thus ensuring that the whole of the filter media is employed in it's primary function - filtering.



Pic:3

We now replace the filter cartridge. **Pic:3** clearly shows the canister, and the cartridge. The 50-mm riser tube is just visible in the opening on top centre of the cartridge. It clearly demonstrates that all water entering the filter must pass through the filter media and flood the whole of the vessel to the height of the riser tube before returning to the pool, thereby ensuring that the whole of the cartridge is employed in filtering. And speaking of filters…..

Good Home Required:
If you're in the market for a large (used) sand filter, this Waterco model S702J (200 kgs sand) with pressure gauge and 50-mm MPV is surplus to requirements.

It's in excellent condition and on offer at $175.00 ONO - delivery within 2 hours of Melbourne included – but sand is not. Direct all enquiries to the Director on 03 9723 4223 or Mob. 0401 691 984.

The Director