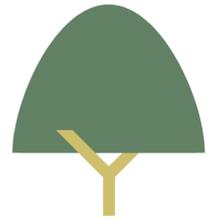




A C I D E



THE OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE OF THE AQUAVIC IONISER USER'S GROUP
Quercus Magnae a Glandibus Crescent



PROUDLY MADE IN AUSTRALIA



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From the Director:

With another non-summer behind us – that now makes two years in a row - and no sign of our little chat sheet, or our ads in trade publications, you could be forgiven for wondering if we were still here. I'm pleased to say that, not only are we still here, but we've been busier than ever as we've taken full advantage of the off-seasonal lull to concentrate all efforts on an R & D project and an Australian first, a range of solar powered ionisers, the first of which, tagged as our "*Aqua Soleil*" Series 1 (s) was released in mid June. (See pic below and also schematic on page 4).

Although the control module appears to have more than a passing resemblance to our tried and true "*New Millennium*" Series 1, looks can be deceptive as we have taken full advantage of the space previously occupied by the transformer and all of the potentially lethal 240V AC components, to add a battery-backed digital time clock and to give it a tad more 'grunt'.

The prototype, which has now been running for several months on the company's 65,000 litre pool, is doing the job quite nicely, albeit with a '*simulated sunshine*' power supply to allow us to thoroughly test it in Melbourne's virtually sunless winter.



Aquavic's "*Aqua Soleil*" Series 1 (s) Ioniser.

Solar – a Very Brief Overview:

By definition, solar panels are the prime-mover of all PV (photo voltaic) or “solar” systems, and performance depends on the solar panel’s exposure time to, and intensity of, the sunlight actually falling directly on the panels. Increasing the number of panels and installing a battery-backup system will certainly improve performance and extend running times in marginal light conditions, but the bottom line is, *no sunlight – no power*. Therefore it is quite important that the PV panels are sized to match the application and sited to gain maximum exposure to direct sunlight.

Also under test and very close to release, is our top of the range “*whole of pool*” package comprising solar panels, batteries with charger / MPPT controller, self-priming pump, ioniser flowcell, electrodes, and the all-important control module which is based on our “*New Millennium*” Series II. This unique package will allow the pool owner to run all pool functions at any time and independently of the power grid. Imagine just how much that would add to your level of enjoyment of your pool – and your wallet.

Made in Australia:

All of our products are designed and manufactured right here in Australia. Always have been. Always will be. True, some of the lesser electronic components are manufactured off-shore (try buying an Australian resistor!) but our circuit boards, flowcells and electrodes etc. are ‘true blue’. This no doubt makes our gear a little more expensive than others with their significant off-shore input, but we make no apologies for keeping jobs right here. To further reinforce that claim, we gave some thought to applying for a licence to use the distinctive green and yellow kangaroo logo, but on delving a little deeper, we were dismayed to discover that a product displaying that particular icon could in fact have as little as 50% Australian content!

If our interpretation is correct, I felt that we could not display it on any of our products, so after some head scratching and few preliminary sketches, Steve Bunton of **Steven Bunton Design** refined the concept to the logo you see below. It has now been embedded on our website and our documentation and is your guarantee that our products are about as Australian as you can get. Jingoistic I hear you say? Unashamedly so, proud of it, and unlikely to change!



Our “Made in Australia” Logo.

Catching on:

We've never been backward in promoting the energy efficiency of our "*New Millennium*" Ioniser range, and the hydraulic efficiency of our straight-through, in-line flowcells. We note that others are now beginning to follow suit and have also begun to highlight the energy savings to be had with their products, the most recent example being that of a CGG manufacturer's highlighting of the hydraulic efficiency of their particular version of the salt cell. For those not familiar with a salt cell, a "typical example" has at least two sharp 90 deg bends at entry and exit, and usually another two added on installation, making 4 energy-sapping 90 deg. bends in total – with free flow through the body further retarded by a multitude of parallel plates located smack bang in the middle of the housing. You don't need a lot of imagination to picture the resultant turbulence and to see what that does to the cell's energy requirements. By way of contrast, our flowcells have no 90 deg. bends as the water flow is straight through from end to end.

We've also become aware that others are now emphasising the benefits of running systems on off-peak power, a feature of our ionisers that we've been quietly promoting for years. I guess we'll never get the credit for pushing that particular energy conservation barrow, but we live in hope.

VS Pumps Update:

I had promised to leave this subject well alone, but after reading the FAQ page on the Energex (QLD) website, where they claim that replacing your single speed pool pump with a variable speed pump will save energy dollars, I just couldn't resist. I emailed them on 7th May for an explanation of just how this could be achieved without compromising the aesthetics of the pool.

My email was acknowledged on the 11th May with the advice that "a representative will be in touch with you shortly" but I wasn't holding my breath. As predicted, nothing. No response at all. I then followed up with a letter and another request on the 7th June, and at the time of drafting this (July 11th) still no response. I was rather hoping for a qualified counter-view which would blow my theory out of the water, for publication in this issue, but at the time of writing, the silence was deafening.

On numerous occasions I have invited others better qualified than me to offer a counter-view that VS pumps do not save you, money, but I still remain unchallenged. Until I am, I hold strongly to the view that replacing a perfectly good pool pump with a VS version will not, and cannot, save energy dollars, *without adversely affecting the aesthetics of your pool*. You can draw your own conclusions from their obvious reluctance to challenge.

Size Really Does Matter:

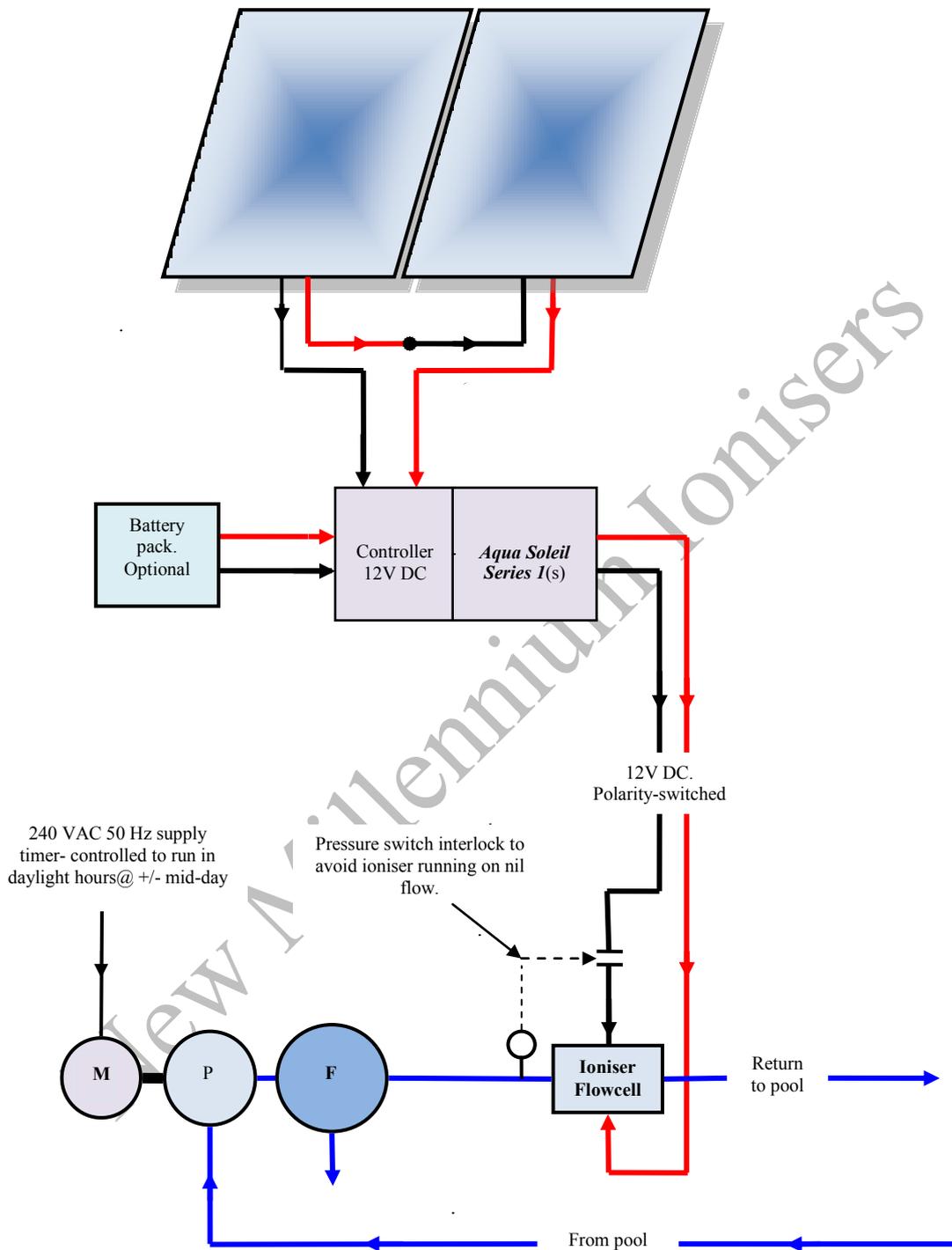
In my experience, pool pumps are invariably oversized anyway, and better suited to white water rafting than domestic pools. If you want to save dollars, install a smaller pump and / or try cutting back the pump running times of the existing pump until the pool shows signs of stress. You may well be pleasantly surprised at just how far you can go – and even more pleasantly surprised when your next power bill arrives. As a "rule of thumb" 1.0 hour per day, in winter, will keep an outdoor ionised pool in good order.

And finally, for residents of Cowra and the surrounding area, we're pleased to announce that John Cobcroft, number 1 in **Pool Supplies in the Central West** has agreed to represent our product range in that part of the world. His contact details are as follows: phone **(02) 6342 1119**, mob. **0413 210 445** or via his website: www.pool-supplies.com.au or via our website: www.aquavic.com.au/agents.htm



The Director.

Solar collectors non-tracking
 12V x 5 Watts series-connected to
 give (nom) 24V DC @ 10 Watts



System architecture for an Aquavic “Aqua Soleil” Series 1 (s) Ioniser.

Note that the (optional) battery pack may be required to extend running
 times in areas of marginal sunlight