



A C I D E

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:

With the winter solstice now behind us and the days beginning to lengthen, it's a good time to reflect on the season's activities, and by far our biggest challenge was our decision to move away from grid-dependant systems, and to develop a range of products able to be run on clean, green, sunlight.

Our first priority was to develop an ioniser which retained the features of our "New Millennium" units, but able to run off low voltage DC solar power. The obvious starting point was to modify an existing Series 1, and the simplest way to prove the process was to remove all potentially lethal 240 volt components and add a digital timer. So well did this 'hybrid' perform that it caused us to look a little deeper, and to query the wisdom of retaining the Series 1 at all when the 'hybrid' ticked all the boxes. What we've now finished up with is an ioniser control module, aka our "Aqua Soleil" unit, that will run on any 12 volt DC source, and by the time you're reading this, we will have released the first of the production models. FYI, the pics below show the evolution of our small-pools ionisers.

Pic.1 is where it all began: our model ION-01, many of which are out there and still doing sterling service. Pic.2 is our soon-to-be-phased-out "New Millennium" Series 1, and Pic.3, our "Aqua Soleil" 12 VDC prototype.



Pic.1



Pic.2



Pic. 3

Next was a DC solar-powered pool filtration pump and this proved to be much more of a challenge. Yes, there are plenty of off-shore options on the market, but we were determined to have Australian-made, and after months of searching, eventually located a local manufacturer - right on our doorstep! The "wet ends" - or pump units - with or without leaf baskets, we buy in and from North America, and, when married to the locally-made DC motors perform very well indeed. Not only are they whisper-quiet, but, unlike other variable speed pumps currently on the market, are infinitely variable from 0 – 3500 RPM. You wont get greater versatility than that. (For further details see report in previous edition vol.13.1).

Having ticked those boxes, we then had to address the question of the supply and installation of the solar panels and ancillary equipment, but because of the insurance and licensing implications associated with installing rooftop PV arrays, we felt that this was outside our comfort zone. A decision was made to leave that to others and concentrate only on the solar gear downstream of the battery pack, an area that we understand and know intimately. We believe that we now have a suite of solar components that will satisfy the requirements of any discerning pool owner wishing to switch (intended pun) from mains to nil cost, clean, green, solar power. Well, what's the next project? We didn't have to wait long for the answer to that one. Enter **Spas and Hot Tubs:**

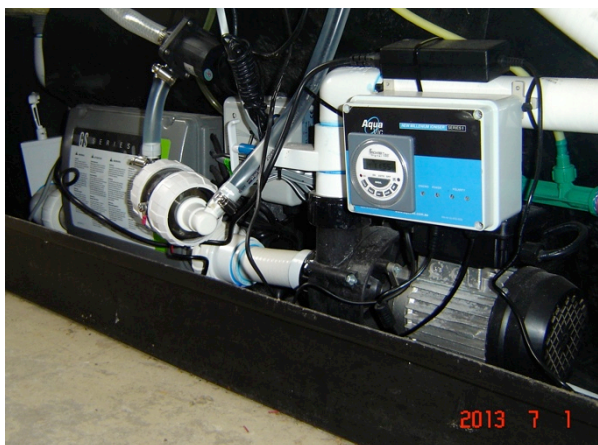
Because of the complexity of the pipework and the multiplicity of pumps - and the fact that most manufacturers smother their shells and pipework with a thick layer of insulating foam - we've deliberately avoided the challenge of installing ionisers in spas. Yes, there were several notable exceptions, but the reality is that they were always difficult to synchronise with an ioniser and we were never comfortable with them.



Photos courtesy of Seascope Spas, Moorooduc.

However, earlier this year, we received a phone call from one of our agents, Geoff Morton of Peninsula Pools, and what followed had me stuck for words. Our "New Millennium" Ionisers, with their proven low energy requirements and frugal chemical consumption, had been making such significant inroads into the pool market that Geoff's customers were now wanting ionisers for their spas and hot tubs as well.

There being no greater market force than that exerted by customer demand, we were motivated to take a closer look at this this old chestnut. We readjusted our thinking caps and what we came up with was simplicity itself. So simple in fact, we wondered why we hadn't done it before. What emerged was a compact and cost-effective package which gave us absolute control over the all-important free copper / silver levels, and in one fell swoop we overcame all of the problems associated with the notoriously difficult-to-predict pump running times of pumps and heaters.



Aquavac's Spa Pack test rig



.....and, yes, there is water in the spa.

Peter Norford of Seascope Pools & Spas in Moorooduc was also keen to get involved and very kindly offered one of his showroom spas for the trials. Pic above left is the test rig, and the Pic above right is the 900 litre spa, which, incidentally, is not just a static display, It is in fact regularly used after-hours by Peter's family. Ioniser run time is 1.5 hrs./week, and chemical consumption is negligible.

It may be installed at the point of sale by the vendor (recommended) or retro-fitted by any competent handyperson. Be aware though, that installations undertaken by owners may compromise shell warranty. For further details of this exciting and revolutionary new development in the world of spas, contact our office.



The Director.

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