

A C I D E

AQUAVIC MADE IN AUSTRALIA

QUERCUS MAGNAE A GLANDIBUS CRESCANT



THE OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE OF THE AQUAVIC IONISER USER'S GROUP

Vol. 15 no.2 Winter 2015

www.aquavic.com.au

Phone / Fax: + 61 3 9723 4223

aquavic@optusnet.com.au

From the Director:

Having recently returned from our annual North American summer break - California to see family, and Vancouver Island for pure unadulterated R & R - it really has taken a while to get reacquainted with our Southern winter – from a mid 30's North American summer to single digit Melbourne temps in one 15 hour flight. Surprisingly, the business continued to “tick over” in spite of the low temperatures and the seasonal slow down, but was ably handled by our casual staff who were “minding the shop” in our absence. And, once again, we’ve had to order stock much earlier than anticipated. Must be doing something right.

Because comms were a little fragile in some areas, and non-existent in others. if you're still waiting for a response to a query, it's possible that it went right through to the keeper, and for that we do apologise, but please contact us again and your request will receive our undivided attention.

The French Connection:

It's not every day that we receive requests from France for replacement ioniser electrodes – and certainly not for one of our original **ION-01** units which was sold to our Spanish agent 10 years ago. Imagine our surprise when we received such a request. Not only did we receive the request, but the owners were so impressed with the performance of their veteran ioniser, that they were only too happy to provide a photo of their pool and a glowing testimonial for our Facebook page and website.

The backstory is this:

When we made our first tentative steps from industrial ionisers into the world of swimming pools back in July 2000, little did we know that a casual email enquiry from Spain would result in a de facto agency on Spain's prestigious Costa del Sol. A number of units were subsequently sent to Spain, but suffice to say that we didn't exactly set the world on fire.

However, it did give us a presence and some exposure in the EU, a presence which resulted in a noticeable increase in the number of enquiries from that part of the world, but, tragically, our agent passed away very suddenly. A colleague of his then took up the reins, but for a number of reasons - mainly the tyranny of distance - the product did not catch on, The exercise was then put down to experience, and eventually shelved.

The better news is that, unbeknown to us, one of the original ionisers found its way over the border to a pool in the Bordeaux region in France where it has been quietly going about its business ever since! The owner's delight, which is reproduced here in part, is apparent by their comments contained in their email:

“We are chilling out by our still mountain-fresh pool after lunch. We never stop singing the praises of our Aquavic ioniser, and even tried to convince our local pool supplier to offer them, but there wasn't much enthusiasm (from the pool suppliers people) as they lose money on the sale of chemicals.”

With their proven electrode longevity – 10 years in this case - low power consumption, and even lower supporting chemicals requirements, is it any wonder that the local pool shop didn't want to have a bar of them. Go to our website www.aquavic.com.au and click on the Facebook or Gallery links to see a pic of the pool in question. That one picture certainly does tell the tale.

What a Load of Rubbish:

Over the years, we've had to field many vexatious comments from our competitors about ionisers, and one that re-emerged again only recently was that old chestnut *"they might work OK down south, but they can't handle the higher temperatures up here in the North."*

For the record *"down here"* in Victoria we experience days where summertime temperatures often reach 40C. I have vivid memories of one particular summer in North East Victoria where we had 10 consecutive days where the mercury hovered around 43! And who can ever forget the day of those horrendous bushfires of February '09 when temperatures reached 47.5C. By comparison, a check of daytime temperatures *"up there"* shows that the average summertime temperatures rarely exceed 35! Yes, the (relative) humidity may be higher up there— *but then the RH of all pool water, regardless of geographic location, is a constant 100%.*

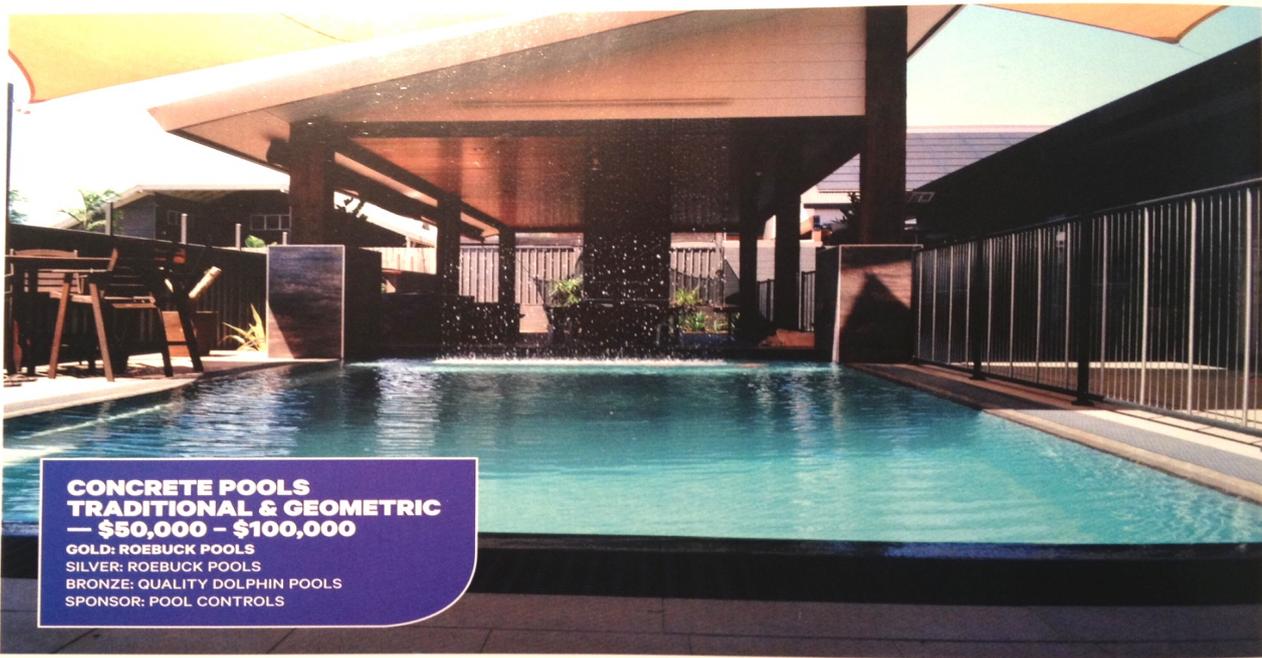
Gold Medal Performers:

These claims of poor performance *"up north"* must also come as an even bigger surprise to **Roebuck Pools** in **Broome** (Roebuck Pools is one of our WA agents) especially so as they have recently taken out **Gold** and **Silver** medals in SPASA's prestigious pool industry awards in the category:

"Concrete Pools Traditional & Geometric - \$50,000 to \$100,000 Western Australia."

Our heartiest congratulations go to Jeff and Tina for a job so very well done, a fitting reward for an outstanding effort. Who was it who said that ionisers don't work at *up north*?

And that, I suggest, is the last word about the suitability - or otherwise - of ionisers "up there!"



Pic by courtesy Poolside Showcase #22

Pump Speed Controllers:

My personal views on the dollar savings to be had by replacing a perfectly good single speed pool pump with one of the new-generation of 3 speed pumps are well known - eg ACIDE vol.11.4 et al. My claim, in a nut shell, is that you cannot change any one of a centrifugal pump's performance characteristics with affecting the others. It's as simple as that, and I am yet to be challenged on that view.

Having said that, and with decades of experience in the industry - and more than a passing knowledge of centrifugal pump theory and practice - I am also of the view that there is a large percentage of pool pumps "out there" which are very much oversized for the application, and therefore costing pool owners far more than they ought. It is to these owners that the following item is directed. On the other hand, if your pump is well matched to your pool's requirements eg indoor heated pool, the savings may be minimal.

If you have a single speed pump on your pool, particularly so if the pump's getting on in years, it's a pretty safe bet that you're paying far more energy dollars to run a pump that is far too big for your pool. This particularly applies to customers who have replaced a chlorine gas generator – aka “salt chlorinator” – with one of our “New Millennium” ionisers.

As luck would have it, we've come across an Australian company which is of a similar mindset and had already identified this phenomenon, and, over the course of several years, has developed an after-market “add on” device that will allow you to reduce the speed and energy consumption of your over-sized, single speed, pool pump – and you don't have to re-hash the pipework to suit a new pump.

Pictured below is a typical installation – an Aquavic “New Millennium” Series II ioniser (which replaced the original salt chlorinator on this particular pool) paired with an Australian-made “Anyspeed” pump speed controller. The owner now has the ability to programme the pump speed to better match the seasonal variations and requirements of his/her pool – and, more importantly, the power bill.



Australian-made: “New Millennium” Series II ioniser and an “Anyspeed” pump controller.

Performance Assessment Trials:

Depending on just how much oversized your pump is, the Aussie-made “Anyspeed” can reduce your (pump's) energy bill by up to 70%. – possibly more in the off-season. We were particularly interested in this device, but because we always err on the side of caution, we decided to run some basic tests.

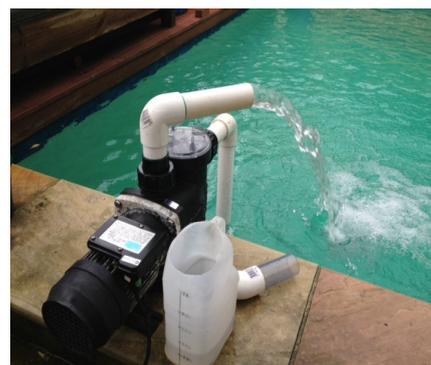
For this exercise, we took a single speed pool pump, so typical of many thousands on pools around the country, added an “Anyspeed” unit, and ran a series of trials on the side of the company's pool. See the Pics below. But as we were on the verge of shutting up shop and taking our winter break, no attempt was made at that time to calculate volumes or power consumption, but we believe the pics give an convincing perspective. We'll crunch the numbers at a later date – when the weather warms up a tad more.



Pic: 1



Pic: 2



Pic: 3

Pic. 1 the control: shows the pump at full motor speed. Note the water stream returning to the pool. An ideal setting for backwashing sand filters.

Pic. 2: shows the pump running at **55%**. The stream returning to the pool is less, but still significant. This particular setting equates to a 45% reduction in the cost of running the pump. Ideal for most suction-dependant pool vacs.

Pic. 3: shown the pump running at a frugal **38 %**. The water volume is obviously much reduced, but still more than sufficient to skim the surface of a pool. Running costs are reduced by 62%, a number not to be sneezed at. Ideal for turning the pool over in the off-season.

The fiscal advantages to be had by reducing the speed of an over-sized pump are clear, but there is another advantage which was only recently brought to our attention. If your pool pump's proximity to your neighbour's bedroom windows causes you to run the pump on maximum tariff daytime power, fitting an "**Anyspeed**" speed controller will reduce intrusive pump noise, thus allowing you to run the pump at nights on much less expensive off-peak tariffs. Must be worth a thought.

Nb: Heat Pumps and gas-fired pool water heaters are sensitive to very low water flow. If running a speed controller, be aware that there is a flow rate below which the heater will not function.

Our Offer:

If, after reading this item, you feel moved to buy one, we have a special offer to our customers only. If placing an order before 1st December, your buying price is **\$565.00*** GST Inclusive - and if you live within our usual Head Office service area, we'll deliver and install it at no extra cost.

- The RRP of an **Anyspeed** energy saver / pump speed controller is \$595.00 GST inclusive.



The Director