



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:

"If you wouldn't drink it, why would you let your children swim in it?" That old saying, "Some lead - others follow" never so true as others in the pool industry begin to cherry-pick our drinking quality pool water motto that we introduced several decades ago, and, up until recently, were 'poooh poohed' for daring to make such an outrageous claim. But unlike the so-called fresh water systems promoted by others, Aquavic's pool water systems are not salt-dependant - and therefore do not generate chlorine. You've really got to ask the question, "Does a salt chlorinator, which happens to have an ioniser added, almost as an afterthought, really produce drinking quality water? I guess we all know the answer to that.

And that being said, we hereby accept the tag of Australia's drinking quality pool water systems pioneer.

Climate Change:

Climate change deniers must be having some serious second thoughts about the wisdom of their views as the evidence is there for all to see. Northern hemisphere temperatures breaking all records, horrendous fires in Greece, the ice shelves - North and South polar - are retreating at an alarming rate, Icelanders and other Nordic and Scandinavian people are beginning to see land which, for eons, has been buried under metres of ice and snow. Their livestock are now happily grazing on tundra increasingly exposed by the retreating ice, and glaciers are calving very much earlier than the norm. And to further reinforce the view that the climate is changing, we're now receiving reports that Hawaiians, are experiencing wild fires and extreme temperatures, the likes of which they have never before experienced. One would have thought that living in close proximity to active volcanoes would have conditioned them to some extent, but nothing could have prepared them for this.

And as if that wasn't enough, closer to home, one glance at our Head Office trend log of Southern Hemisphere sunlight hours confirms that we really haven't experienced a genuine summer for the last four seasons. And when a significant component of the recreational waters industry - aka swimming pools - is very much influenced by pool owners taking a dip, we really are green with envy of owners of indoor pools that are not exposed to the elements, and swim year round.

Light On The Hill: *(With apologies to Ben Chifley PM 1945 - 1949)*

Never in recorded history has the world been subjected to the dramatic and sometimes fatal consequences of contracting the Covid-19 virus. History tells us that the Black Plague of 1665 and the Spanish Flu in 1919 were severe, but in spite of the dedication and expertise of our first responders and health care professionals, this insidious virus certainly gave them both a run for their money. Although the virus and its derivatives are still very much with us, every cloud definitely does have a silver lining.

Coincident with the beginning of August, the recreational waters industry's stars realigned, an astronomical phenomena confirmed by a noticeable increase in the number of telephone enquiries and sales. It would appear that the pool industry was finally reawakening from several years of hibernation and was slowly but surely getting back up to speed. Summer - bring it on.

It Pays To Advertise:

And now that the beast is very definitely beginning to stir, we've been inspired to put a greater emphasis on getting the message 'out there' beginning with the pool industry's print media, and reintroducing group e-mail-outs to established customers, and our Facebook page. Link below. This edition will of course be included as a download on our website. We're looking forward to a much brighter future this coming season - and what better time to discuss the coming season than over a working lunch at our favourite Yarra Valley winery. Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/AquavicInternational>



Aquavic doing some opportunistic advertising during a working lunch at a local winery.

Photo shopped:

Whilst on the subject of advertising, a property with a modest in ground pool, not too far from this office, has recently been put on the market. Nothing unusual here except that the photo on the agent's board out front has been reworked to such an extent that it gives one the impression that the pool, which is well known to us, is in fact a modest 30,000 litre freeform in-ground pool, appears to rival Port Phillip Bay. The only things missing are the cross channel ferries and container ships! Talk about deceptive advertising.

Paradoxically, it wasn't that many years ago that real estate agents made it very clear to us that having a pool did very little to enhance the value of the property. And in cases where prospective buyers were anti pool, having a pool on the property was a deal breaker. Not so now, it would appear. Times do change.

Ticking Over:

And speaking about ticking over, the varying degrees of restrictions did limit opportunities for the all-important face-to-face contact with our much valued customers, but the fact that many are now WFH with time on their hands, has influenced some to take their morning coffee outside and have a closer look at the condition of their pumps, filters, ionisers and electrodes. Having done so, many were apparently most concerned about the condition of the electrodes as we'd never sold so many in such a short time - and certainly not in the off-season. Thank goodness we were well stocked in anticipation of the coming season and were able to ship all orders within 24 hours.

How not to drain a pool.

We recently received a cry for help from a customer whose pool had suffered from a neighbour's thoughtless sandblasting of the paintwork on his solid brick mid-Victorian residence. Not only was the "overspray" dispersed all over the surrounding landscape, but a fair percentage of the lead-based 19th century paint finished up in the pool. Putting aside the ethics of covering your neighbors with a toxic cloud of lead oxide and grit, my recommendation was that the pool be emptied immediately, pressure washed, and refilled with fresh water. The customer took the advice and hired a local pool service person for the job. Unfortunately, the poolie hired for the job, compounded the problem by choosing to use the pool's pump, and in doing so, further contaminated the pump, the filter, the heater's heat exchanger, and the pipework. You really do have to wonder what was going through his mind as he assessed the job.

What should have happened was this: Isolate the pump off for 4 - 5 days - more if necessary - to allow the suspended solids to settle on the bottom of the pool by gravity, then drop a submersible pump into the deepest part of the pool and pump directly to waste whilst high pressure washing all exposed wetted surfaces as the water level receded. Then, and only then, refill the pool with fresh water, adjusting the water balance progressively during the refill, then replace the filter media (sand or cartridge) and start again.

Our recommendation is that because your pool water becomes an ever-increasingly complex chemical soup anyway, it should be dumped and refilled every 5 years or so. This, of course, depends on the availability of fresh water for the refill. It's not that long ago that we had to adopt this very procedure to resurrect the company's own pool following a severe dust storm which contaminated every outdoor pool in Melbourne. Fortunately, we only had to deal with wind-blown soil from every wheat farm in the Wimmera and not the lead oxide contamination as experienced by our customer.



The Company's pool contaminated by an extraordinary dust storm, prior to pressure washing.

Do Your Own:

And whilst on the subject of contaminated water, a recent example of a flawed pool water analysis underlines my recommendation to do your own water testing in house. A pool company's test results received recently by one customer damn near resulted in her dumping 40,000 litres of water that was judged to have with high levels of salt and copper. The fact that the ioniser was out of service at the time, and therefore not releasing copper - and that salt had never been added to the pool - rang alarm bells with

the owners, who then contacted Aquavic for advice before the water was lost to sewer. From the information given, it was obvious that this data were seriously flawed. Fortunately we were able to gather some vital numbers by other means and the numbers collected confirmed that the pool company's computer-generated water analysis was not worth the e-paper upon which it was written. One really can't help wondering just how many of their customers acted on flawed water analysis. I've said it many times before and I'll say it again:

Buy a common 4 in 1 pool water test kit and do your own basic water chemistry testing in-house. It's a very simple procedure for an ionised pool and should only take about 10 minutes of your time weekly in summer and monthly - or even quarterly - in the off-season. The upside is that you'll know exactly what has been added to the water and you'll probably save money as well.

Historical:

We recently received a call from a person who had just purchased a house with an in-ground, ionised, fibreglass pool. A follow-up call confirmed that not only was it one of our ionisers, but it had been installed 23 years ago shortly after we'd hung out Aquavic's "shingle" for all to see! Apart from needing another pair of electrodes, the electronic controller that had sensibly been protected from the elements, was in excellent working order and ready for another 23 years. Good old Aussie engineering. Designed and built to suit our fickle climate. BTW Aquavic's control units are also covered by our unique conditional Lifetime Warranty. Link below: <http://www.aquavic.com.au/downloads.htm>

Not Rocket Science:

BTW, if you've purchased, or otherwise acquired any one of our ionisers **New Millennium 1 or 2** right up to and including our current model **Aqua Soleil and Series 3**, and perhaps not receiving the support you require from the vendor, please don't hesitate to call our Head Office. Unfortunately there are many in the industry who choose not to get their heads around the fact that an ionised pool does not require many of the chemicals required for chlorine-based pools. In a nutshell, if it doesn't get a mention in our water chemistry instructions (below) it shouldn't be in your pool. It's simple as that. See link below: <http://www.aquavic.com.au/downloads/Fresh-Water-Chemistry-AlgaeNON+Electrodes.pdf>

Pool Vacs:

If you have a Barracuda-type suction dependant pool vac that is not performing as it should - getting stuck in one part of the pool, reluctant to climb walls or steps etc. it could be one of the following, any of which can reduce the suction required to operate effectively. The cause could be as simple as pin holes in the suction hose partially destroying the suction, a failing pump impeller, fouled skimmer basket, the pump's leaf filter overdue for a clean out, or sand filter media in need of a change.

If, after eliminating these possible causes you still have a problem, it may be time to give some thought to acquiring one of the many "robotic cleaners" now freely on offer by many manufacturers. The one thing they have in common is that none of them are suction-dependant, and therefore do not have an adverse effect on the filtration cycle time of the pool. Do your research and when you find one that suits your budget, give me a call and we'll have a chat about acquiring one for you, and at a very attractive price.



The Director.