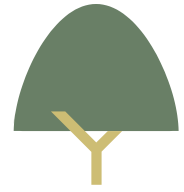


# A C I D E

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



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## From the Director:

Greetings all. We're back! And to use a water analogy, it's been a long time between drinks - but we're still here, and in spite of the hand dealt to all in the Recreational Waters Industry (we refuse to use the term "*The Wet Industry*") by Mother Nature we've still got our heads above water. Sorry about the clichés.

As most of you know, we took advantage of the usual end-of-season pool industry slump to take a short break and have a look at Canada and the Rockies, and to catch up with some old friends in Kansas City, Missouri on our way home. Of great interest was that we've found where all of our water has gone. It's all in British Columbia! We've have never seen so much water. Snow, ice, glaciers, lakes, water falls and rivers by the dozens, *and it was mid summer over there*. If only there was some way of diverting just a fraction of it....

## Back to Earth:

And when we finally came back to earth, we were pleased to see and hear that in our absence, the rains had returned to such an extent that the company's pool was full to overflowing, the garden and lawns were saturated and, more importantly, our storage reservoirs we beginning to fill again. They were still a long way from full – a very long way – but it was the first positive result that we've seen for a long, long time. Perhaps we should go away more often. I know that some of our competitors would dearly like us to do so. Sorry to disappoint, but it's not going to happen. Well, not until next year, anyway. Or unless somebody makes us an offer too good to refuse.

## IT Upgrade:

On the advice of our IT manager, we also took advantage of the break to upgrade our office computer systems. At the time of writing we're still coming to terms with cordless keypads, flat screens, wireless keyboards and mouses/meece/mice? and a new supersonic operating system, so if we're a little long-winded in replying to emails etc., bear with us as nothing is where we left it. We know it's in there somewhere, but just having a little trouble navigating the new desktop. It's also possible that some data may have been lost so if you're still waiting for a reply, please send again or give us a call and we'll give you our undivided attention.

## Cartridge Filters:

And whilst on the subject of water saving, of interest is that an RWI-representative body is now promoting the use of cartridge filters as a water conservation measure "*as they eliminate the backwashing that is associated with sand filters*". Well, that's fine up to a point, but they're not telling the whole story. Cartridge filters are fine for indoor and enclosed pools – and we have no hesitation in recommending and/or selling them for such applications – but they can be high maintenance and very labour intensive items for outdoor pools which, by definition, are fully exposed to wind blown dust, dirt, leaves, twigs, etc. Any pool owner who has experienced just how much rubbish arrives via the atmosphere with a strong Northerly or Westerly will know exactly what we're talking about. The first indication is that as the filter media very quickly becomes fouled, pool circulation

becomes sluggish, the pool vac fails or leaves tracks in the bottom of the pool, and the filter back pressure rises rapidly to the point where the pump must be stopped, the cartridge must be removed, degreased and hosed off! Some pool owners actually choose to have a second cartridge unit already cleaned and ready to go. That's also fine, but cartridges are an expensive item to have sitting around until required, and you still have the task of physically removing and replacing them. On the other hand, as owners of ionised pools already know, and have known for the past 5 decades, saving the backwash water from a reliable old sand filter for reuse on gardens and lawns – or allowing to settle and returning to the pool to counter water lost to evaporation - has always been a feature of an ionised pool.

*We have one frustrated customer in dusty Northern Victoria who, on the advice of her pool builder, installed a cartridge filter in her outdoor pool, only to find that removal and cleaning of the cartridge unit very quickly became a weekly chore. She is now enjoying the benefits of a common old, low maintenance sand filter.*

#### **Horses for Courses:**

Fans of a popular British TV cop's show would have been amused at a recent episode. It goes something like this. There had been a murder and the unfortunate victim was found floating in an equine swimming pool on a country property. The pool owner, a very shifty character and ner-do-well by anybody's measure, was high on the list of police suspects, a view supported by the pathologist's finding of '*death by drowning in a swimming pool*' a conclusion based on the fact that the water in the victim's lungs was found to contain chlorine. Open and shut case. But no! To our great delight – and no doubt to that of the prime suspect – the owner was eliminated from enquiries when it was found that he didn't use chlorine ..... ***because his equine pool was running an ioniser.***

Who would have thought that a swimming pool ioniser would be used to eliminate a suspect from a murder enquiry. Imagine what might have happened if he *had* been using chlorine, eh? We've always said that it was nasty stuff.

#### **Business as Usual:**

Any how, we're back and looking forward to the coming season. We're currently in the process of replenishing our stocks which were run down in anticipation of winter, and will shortly be turning our attention to reviewing our price lists. Not all prices will change but some increases are inevitable as our buying price of some stock items has already risen, no doubt inspired to some extent by the escalating price of fuel. Your swimming pool may not be on the top of your list of priorities at the moment, but spring is just around the corner. If you're going to need any goodies when the sun comes out, don't leave it too long to give us a call.

#### **Handy Maintenance Hint:**

When you've finished reading this, toddle out to your pool and have a close look at the ioniser's electrodes, and if one is significantly smaller than the other, read on.

There are several explanations for this condition but the most probable is that every time your ioniser starts, one electrode (the anode) will "burn away" faster than the other, and eventually disappear altogether. If you do nothing else to the pool before the next swimming season arrives, at least swap over the two low voltage leads on your ioniser flowcell. Simply unscrew each and replace on the opposite terminal.

*If allowed to continue unchecked, it is possible that the remaining terminal stud will eventually fall out altogether resulting in a significant loss of pool water via the 6 mm hole that remains.*

If unsure about what to look for or what to do, please give us a call at any time.

John Horwood  
Director.