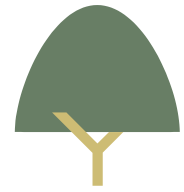


A C I D E

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



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From the Director:

Our last newsletter seems to have struck a chord with our advice: “*If you do nothing else, have a look at the electrodes*” as a number of readers took heed and did just that. And more than a few were surprised to find that their electrodes were in fact a consumable item after all, and do not last forever!

And as if to further reinforce that message, we recently received a cry for help from one of our customers who, when investigating the funny sucking noise coming from her pool’s skimmer box, was staggered to find that instead of the pool water recirculating through the filter, a fair proportion it had been pumped out through a 6.0 mm hole which was previously occupied by one of the electrode terminals, and the pool level was very much lower than it should have been..

Now this is exactly the point I was trying to make, and I say again: Your pool’s filtration system may not be high on your household routine maintenance agenda, but it does require a little care and attention from time to time – *especially before the swimming season gets underway.*

Quite literally, thousands of litres of pool water had escaped and the garden was flooded! Fortunately there was enough water in storage to make up this not insubstantial loss. All that’s required now is for rain sufficient to refill the tank – but with clear skies and summer upon us, we live in hope.

Anyone for Dominos?

Whilst on site rectifying the above problem, an attempt was made to remove the pump’s filter basket as it was found to be fouled beyond belief - but the lid was locked solid and resisted all attempts to open it. Somebody had already had a go at removing it but succeeded only in breaking part of the lid. Some time later - and with a little verbal encouragement and a lot of well-aimed taps with a soft “persuader” - I eventually managed to get it open without doing any further damage, cleared the large mass of detritus from the basket, and attempted to put the pump back into service - but all this did was highlight yet *another* problem. (A classic example of the *Domino Theory* being alive and well).

The pump refused to prime!

Prime Time:

Wherever a pump is above the (free) surface of the pool, you have a condition known as ‘negative suction’ and, on start-up, the pump is required to create a partial vacuum sufficient to lift the water higher than the pool and into the ‘eye’ of the pump’s impeller. It then follows that any imperfection or impediment that allows air to enter *anywhere* in the suction, or low pressure side of the system, will destroy that partial vacuum, and the pump will fail. A perfect, airtight seal at this point is vital – and graunching the lid on with a length of 4 x 2 will not fix the problem. Desist! Don’t do it!

If the seal is in good order and free of foreign matter, a little silicon lubricant and hand-tightening is usually sufficient. And if, after clearing the pump’s leaf filter, you’ve refilled the pump with water but

your pump is reluctant to prime, or simply refuses to move water at all, have a closer look at the “O” ring seal under the lid as any imperfection - a cracked or pinched “O” ring, or a piece of leaf or twig caught under the seal - will destroy the partial vacuum required to draw water into the pump. And if you happen to have a short, black, flexible rubber coupling with two circular clamps on the front of the pump, have a very close look at that – especially if it’s getting a little long in the tooth. They really can be a problem. Look especially for surface cracks.

Repeated stop / starts and pouring lots of water into the front end of the pump won’t solve the problem at all as the front end of the pump has a finite capacity of – say, 4 litres of water – and once full, the rest simply runs back down the suction pipe and back into the pool. You have to look elsewhere for the cause, and a good place to start is in the skimmer box. Assuming that the water level is *above* the skimmer, check that the skimmer basket is clear and remove the pool vac hose connection. (This really should have been done before we started playing around with the pump, but, better late than never).

Call in an Expert:

All OK here? Back to the pump. Reprime the pump, replace the lid firmly, and start again. All being well, the pump should start working almost immediately, but some may take 20 – 30 seconds. If still no result after – say – one minute, then you’ve got problems, and require some expert assistance.

If you can’t find an expert, we’ll only be too happy to give you the benefit of several decades of our ‘inexpert’ involvement with pumps, all of which were far more sophisticated than pool pumps which, by definition (and not necessarily price) are little more than plastic imitations of the real thing. But even plastic imitations are dependent on the same basic principles i.e. *the suction side must be airtight*.

Worst-case scenarios are that there is an air leak somewhere between the skimmer box and the front end of the pump (easily checked with a hydrostatic pressure test, but if the problem is underground, not so easily fixed) or there is a problem within the pump itself i.e. damaged or worn impeller / diffuser etc.

An Ounce of Prevention:

(Somehow “*28.57 grams of prevention*” doesn’t have the same ring to it). Our company’s policy is to promote ***Preventative Maintenance***, as the alternative, ***Reactive Maintenance***, may save you some dollars in the short term, but, as sure as God made little green apples, ***Murphy’s Law*** states that your system will fail dramatically at the most inconvenient time i.e. right in the middle of the big New Year’s Eve pool party that you’ve been organising all year. 100 guests, hot northerly winds, 40 deg.C.....and no filtration system!!! Don’t let that happen to you.

Important Note:

And finally. If you’re one of the 80 + customers who have received this edition by “Snail Mail” but have an active email address - please let us know and we’ll add you to our electronic list (or update an obsolete address) and reduce our carbon footprint at the same time. Thank you in anticipation.

John Horwood
Director.

‘If you wouldn’t drink it, why would you let your children swim in it?’.

Pre season special offers.

*All prices below are as per 2007 / 2008 Price List.
New prices apply from 1st November 2008.*

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Pool chemistry OK but still having some problems algae?

Lo-Chlor “**Miraclear Pool Algaecide**” - 1.0 litre bottles only.  
RRP = \$28.05 + GST = **\$30.86**. *Our price* = \$22.75 + GST = **\$27.23**

Pool water tests OK but it lacks its usual polish?

Lo-Chlor “**Miraclear Pool Clarifier**” – 1.0 litre bottles only.  
RRP = \$16.92 + GST = **\$18.61**. *Our price* = \$14.93 + GST = **\$16.42**

Just had a pool party and need to ‘burn out’ those organics that came with the guests?

Lo-Chlor “**Aquaboost**” non-chlorine oxidiser – 5.0 kgs jars only.  
RRP = \$67.92 + GST = **\$74.71**. *Our price* = \$59.93 + GST = **\$65.92**

And finally, we still have several cartons (8 x 1.0 kgs sachets) of good ol’ reliable **Aquabrite**.

These are available at the ‘07/’08 price of \$128.00 + Hazchem levy + GST = **\$143.60**

Pencil will be sharpened for multiples as we need to clear the way for the new season’s stock.

Usual delivery rules apply i.e. nil charge if we’re in your area on other business at the time.

*And for those amongst you who enjoy a challenge, try your luck at identifying every component, pipe and valve on the system pictured below. (Gas heater is out of picture – right foreground). The pool is an indoor, solar and gas heated pool. NB: the “blue box” in the top LH corner is an Aquamatics MK5 Ioniser which replaced the original **chlorine gas generator** - aka as a ‘**salt chlorinator**’.*

