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# Music from water



# A Canadian company has invented the world's first musical instrument that runs on and makes music from water

UNtain, a group of engineers, musicians and designers from the University of Toronto, Canada, have redefined the physical capabilities of water and are making a splash in the pool, spa, and water park industry.

Their patented invention – the Hydraulophone – is the world's first waterbased instrument. They have been installed in splash pads, aquatic facilities, museums and civic spaces in Canada, and are now looking to expand into other markets, including Australia.

FUNtain converted a nightclub in Toronto's design district into a mad scientist's lab of water instruments. Inventor Steve Mann says that their modus operandi is to constantly develop the musical and entertainment possibilities of water.

"FUNtain operates at the nexus of technology, science and art," says Mann. "We make music from water, our last great resource, to make the world a cooler place to be a part of. And hydraulophones redefine the usual concept of water parks, pools and water features."

While the Hydraulophone is essentially meant to entertain, they bring a new level of sophistication to the idea of frolicking in water. Children are engaged immediately because of the Hydraulophone's approachable shape and its inviting water jets.

"When children realise they can actually play it like an instrument, learning and



fun becomes the same thing," says Mann.
"Instead of supervising, adults are also
fascinated by the music created, and end up
playing their favourite tunes and having as
much fun as the kids."

The most positive aspect of this new invention is its expressivity. Because water is naturally multi-dimensional (it is a fluid after all), the Hydraulophone can sculpt an array of previously unheard aquatic sounds that seem to emanate from other, watery worlds. You can make music that bends, swirls and flows around itself and can sound like an orchestra of flutes and oboes or a booming organ.

"What's more," says Mann. "You can actually see and feel the music as it is created. The instrument is essentially always on' until you activate a note by blocking its water jet. In this sense, the Hydraulophone is really the world's first 'outstrument', making dramatically visible what is actually happening musically. When your finger blocks a note, the water cascading out of other notes will dance in response to the change in water flow, allowing your eyes to see what your ears hear and what your hands feel. All of your senses are immediately and seamlessly engaged. People who care to try it are left in complete awe at the utter novelty of the experience."



# industry feature



"The applications of this technology will change the types of features installed in aquatic areas in the future."

Hydraulophones have turned the world of music on its head by expanding the fundamental sources used to make sound. Instruments of the past used only two natural elements to make music: solids (strings, percussion) and gas (woodwinds, brass).

"The narrow channel through which we previously thought about music making music has just been burst open," he says. "Now you can actually play water. The applications of this technology will change the types of features installed in aquatic areas in the future."

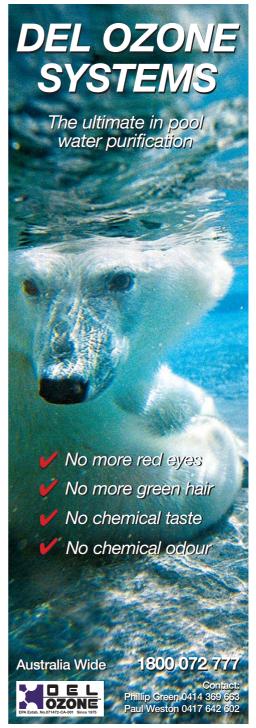
Some Hydraulophones are giant majestic interactive public art pieces. Some are installed in the side of bathtubs and pools. Some are used to turn existing water features or playgrounds into interactive musical structures. Others are stand alone tadpole-shaped octave-and-a-half themed features for children. Regardless of the form it takes, the Hydraulophone has fundamentally altered what we think water can do and ways we can

interact with it.

FUNtain ship globally from Toronto. For more information or to listen to a sample of the aquatic music, go to http://funtain.ca, email info@funtain.ca or call 0011 647 896 0633. 

●







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### Storage

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# **COMMERCIAL NEWS AND FEATURES**

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# Global spa revenue revised down for 2009, up for 2010

# FIRST GLOBAL SPA BENCHMARK REPORT RELEASED, SHOWING EFFECTS OF GFC

THE first ever Global Spa Benchmark Report has been published by Intelligent Spas, providing detailed information and financial statistics for the global spa industry, including breakdowns of key performance indicators by region for Asia Pacific, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East/Africa.

The report examines the impact of the global financial crisis on the spa industry, confirming it is not immune to the crisis, but also showing positive data.

Operators received 13 per cent less visits in 2008 compared to their original forecasts, although revenue achieved was 8.5 per cent higher than expected. Predictions for 2009 revenue and employment have been revised down by 9.4 per cent and 15 per cent respectively, however the outlook for 2010 is more positive with all major regions predicting increases in average revenue and visits per spa.



A summary of key spa benchmark ratios are in the table below.

Other findings from the global survey included:

- The average spa treatment rate achieved by spas globally in 2008 was \$US90. Europe achieved the highest rate of \$US111 and Asia-Pacific received the lowest average rate of \$US77.
- The average size of a spa facility was 788 metres (8,487 square feet) and spas contained nine treatment rooms on average.
- Employees per spa averaged 22.9, with the Americas averaging the most (33.8) and Europe the fewest (13.6).

- 50 per cent of total spa revenue was spent on salaries, bonuses and employee benefits, 9 per cent on operations/maintenance, 4 per cent on marketing and management and 2 per cent on training.
- Across the globe, the day spa guest has become a critical target market for hotel and resort spas with 38 per cent of total spa visits at hotel spas coming from local residents and other tourists not staying at that hotel. In Europe and the Middle East/Africa, just 53 per cent percent of hotel spa visits were from in-house guests.
- The region with the largest percentage of outsourced spas (using a management company) was the Americas at 32 per cent, almost three times higher than the other three regions.
- All regions are expecting decreases in average annual revenue per spa during 2009, however the outlook for 2010 is brighter with all regions expecting growth between 8 per cent and 32 per cent.

The report contains more than 1850 spa industry benchmarks relating to revenue, expenses, visits and employment, with many topics showing historical data available from 2005 to 2008, plus forecast data for 2009 and 2010.

The report is available for purchase from www.IntelligentSpas.com.

2008 Spa Industry Benchmarks	Global Benchmark	Regional Benchmarks			
		Asia Pacific	Middle East/Africa	Americas	Europe
Treatment Room Occupancy	34%	37%	27%	32%	31%
Therapist Productivity Rate	43%	42%	33%	49%	43%
Average Treatment Rate (USD)	\$90	\$77	\$87	\$109	\$111
Revenue per Available Minute (USD)	\$0.41	\$0.32	\$0.29	\$0.59	\$0.54
Capture Rate of Hotel Guests	62%	64%	53%	72%	53%

# Darwin waterfront slowed by topless backpackers

Building work at Darwin's Waterfront Precinct – which includes a safe swimming beach, recreation lagoon and a leisure lawn – has been slowed by an unusual obstacle: half-naked European backnackers

According to NT News, the workers on the site find it impossible to concentrate as the scantily clad backpackers disrobe right in front of their workplace. There is no law against topless bathing at the waterside precinct, although the Darwin Waterfront Corporation will reportedly consider it, if they receive complaints from offended citizens. Despite the interruption to their work, it seems unlikely the tradesmen will lodge formal complaints.

# The truth is out: one in five Americans pee in the pool

# AND ALMOST HALF ADMIT TO UNHYGIENIC POOL BEHAVIOUR

THE Water Quality and Health Council (WQHC) in the United States has undertaken research on the behaviour of swimmers at public pools, uncovering several unpleasant pieces of information, including the fact that almost 20 per cent of those surveyed admitted to urinating in the swimming pool.

While the study was conducted in America, it also informs us about the behaviour of bathers in similar societies such as Australia.

According to the survey, 84 percent of Americans believe their fellow swimmers participate in unhygienic pool behaviour – and they may be right. In fact, almost half (47%) admit to one or more unhealthy behaviours.

Peeing in the pool? One in five say they've done it (17%) – and eight in ten (78 per cent) are convinced their fellow swimmers are guilty. Only one third (35 per cent) shower before swimming, and three-quarters (73 per cent) say their fellow swimmers fail to shower before swimming.

Despite strong doubts about their fellow swimmers, only a third (36 per cent) say pool water cleanliness is top of mind when they head to the pool. At the same time, most (63 per cent) are unaware of illnesses associated with swallowing, breathing or having contact with contaminated pool water. In fact, less than one quarter consider the frequency of pool cleaning and chemical treatment (23 per cent) and even less (16 per cent) think about chlorine levels to maintain clean pool water.

"Swimming is a fun and healthy activity for old and young alike. Proper water chlorination helps protect swimmers from germs that can make swimmers sick," says Michele Hlavsa, epidemiologist in the Division of Parasitic Diseases for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "But swimmers also have role to play in maintaining a clean and healthy pool. Unhygienic behaviour brings germs into the pool and makes it harder for chlorine to do its job."

The CDC urges pool users to follow these six tips for healthy swimming:

- · Don't swim when you have diarrhoea;
- Don't swallow pool water;
- Practice good Hygiene. Shower with soap before swimming and wash your hands after using the toilet or changing nappies;
- Take your kids on bathroom breaks or check nappies often;
- Change nappies in a bathroom or a nappy-changing area and not at the side of the pool;
- Wash your children thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before they go swimming.

Unclean water can lead to recreational water illnesses (RWIs) – diarrhoea, respiratory illness, and ear and skin infections. Children, pregnant women, and people with compromised immune systems can suffer from more severe illness if infected. According to the CDC, these illnesses are on the rise in the US. Between 2005 and 2006, 78 outbreaks were reported in 31 States – the largest number of outbreaks ever in a two-year period. Close to 4500 people were affected.



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# Aussies win Commonwealth Pool Lifesaving Championships

## **BREAK 11 RECORDS**

AUSTRALIA has retained its Commonwealth crown, fending off stiff competition from the Canadians and South Africans at the Commonwealth Pool Lifesaving Championships in Edmonton, Canada.

Over three days of competition, the Australian team rewrote the championship record books, smashing an astounding 11 records in individual and team events.

The team also claimed two new Commonwealth records: Andrew Bowden in the individual 100m Rescue Medley and the 4 x 25m Women's Manikin Relay.

On the final day, the Aussie Barras crushed their opposition with a clean sweep, winning gold in every event. In total, the team brought home 15 gold medals.

Luke Harper's efforts in the pool have also seen him springboard into the Australian World Games team to compete in Taipei later this year, replacing Ben McCauley who is unavailable.

Royal Life Saving's National Sports Development Officer, Penny Hodgers, said the team had performed beyond anyone's wildest expectations.

"For lifesaving as a sport, the Commonwealth Championships are the equivalent of the Commonwealth Games," Hodgers says. "To see some of our younger team members not just up there with the best, but stripping time off established championship records is a fantastic result. It gives us a great deal of hope for the future of the sport in Australia. Despite the pressure of international competition, our team really knuckled down and showed their maturity when it mattered.

"It was great to see the team fighting it out for first and second in a number of key events because it means we don't have to wait for a big international meet for each of our team to have strong enough competition to really push them on to even better results."

Five of the team, Andrew Bowden, Luke Harper, Felysia Konakoff,



Mitch Parkes and Sarah Windsor will join fellow Royal Life Saving representative, Jenny Parry, to compete in the Australian Lifesaving Team at the World Games to be held in Taipei in July.

# Individual competitors who took out championship records are:

- Andrew Bowden, 25, NSW Men's 50m Manikin Carry & Men's 100m Rescue Medley;
- James Cohen, 20, WA Men's 200m Obstacle Swim;
- Sarah Windsor, 31, QLD Women's 100m Rescue Medley;
- Mitch Parkes, 20, NSW Men's 100m Manikin Tow:
- Jessica Brown, WA Women's 200m Super Lifesaver.

### Team championships records:

- 4 x 50m Obstacle Swim Men's Team: Luke Harper, 26, VIC; Andrew Bowden, 25, NSW; Chris Timms, 29, WA; and James Cohen, 20, WA.
- 4 x 50m Medley Relay Men's Team: Luke Harper, 26, VIC; Mitch Parkes, 20, NSW; Chris Timms, 29, WA; and James Cohen, 20, WA.
- 4 x 50m Medley Relay Women's Team: Sarah Windsor, 31, QLD; Pamela Hendry, 17, QLD; Felysia Konakoff, 23, NSW; Jane Cooper, 26, NSW.
- 4 x 25m Manikin Relay Men's Team: Luke Harper, 26, VIC; Andrew Bowden, 25, NSW; Chris Timms, 29, WA: and Mitch Parkes, 20, NSW.
- 4 x 25m Manikin Relay Women's Team: Sarah Windsor, 31, QLD; Felysia Konakoff, 23, NSW; Jane Cooper, 26, NSW; Jessica Brown, 24, WA.



# Battle of the suits heads to Rome

# THE UPCOMING FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL SEE SWIMMER VS SWIMMER, AND SUIT VS SUIT

IN June, FINA approved more than 100 swimsuits after manufacturers re-submitted their suits with modifications.

In some cases, manufacturers submitted arguments regarding the fact the construction or material of their swimsuits would not create air trapping effects.

The executive found it would take too long to work out exactly which suits did and which didn't trap air, so it passed a long list of suits - with the intention of trimming it down once more research could be undertaken.

In coming to that decision, they considered that the outcome of the approval process could have a substantial impact on existing production and stocks.

FINA says that to secure a level-playing field, the approved swimsuits will be available to all swimmers at the World Championships in Rome. The approved swimsuits will be labelled and will be checked in Rome prior to competition.

The rules regarding shape, use of only one swimsuit and no taping will be strictly applied and controlled in the first call room.

FINA will continue the process of controlling the evolution of swimsuits and will issue new rules including new criteria for 2010.



# Otahuhu needs its pool

RESIDENTS of Otahuhu in
Auckland have angrily lobbied
the Auckland City Council to have
their pool project put back on
track. The community pool project
was originally in the council's
10-year plan; had previously
been approved and already had
\$NZ330,000 spent on the design
and development processes. Land
had been acquired for the site,

One compelling reason given for the pool to be reinstated in the plan was that it was needed to help improve Maori and Pacific Islander's swimming ability. Maori and Pacific Islanders represent a proportionally large group in drowning stats.

# Sea World Resort wins national award

SEA World Resort & Water Park was voted Best Family Experience at the 2009 Gourmet Traveller Travel Awards held at the Sydney Opera House in May.

The readers' award comes on top of a third place in the Holidays with Kids Magazine's Top 10 Family Resorts, and a place in the top 15 of Out and About With Kids Magazine's Favourite Kids Clubs in Australasia.

This year Sea World Resort acquired a 1.6 hectare Water Park which will feature as a summer facility. The Water Park will reopen in time for the school holidays, allowing guests free and unlimited access to two large lagoon pools, full size slides and a kids' splash zone.

# Little fish make way for big players

THE Gold Coast City Council has removed the existing pool operators at its six aquatic locations, replacing them with big business operators Belgravia and the Gold Coast Leisure Aquatic consortium.

The council's decision affects pools at Southport, Nerang, Mudgeeraba, Helensvale, Miami and Woongoolba. The new operators have two year contracts.

Local swimmers have expressed fears that fees will rise and the community will not be as well serviced under the new operators as it was under the previous "family operators".

High profile coaches and operators to be affected included Olympic swim coach Denis Cotterell, who trained Grant Hackett, and "living legend" Laurie Lawrence. Gold Coast operators had come off a difficult season, with the pools closed for five

Gold Coast operators had come off a difficult season, with the pools closed for five weeks in November after fears of electrical danger due to equipotential bonding faults [see SPLASH! December 2008 Issue for more].



TendersConnect

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# Latest commercial tenders

REED CONSTRUCTION DATA HAS RELEASED DATA SHOWING NEW TENDERS FOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND AQUATIC CENTRES FOR MAY AND JUNE, 2009.



THE figures show both construction and maintenance jobs for aquatic centres and commercial swimming pools. Only new business opportunities have been included, not jobs that have been previously advertised.

The figures show tender numbers rising, with a total of 56 compared with 37 for the previous period. Queensland had the most tenders with 20, followed by Victoria/Tasmania and New South Wales/ACT equal with 13.

# Heating with Confidence and Satisfaction TELECOINVERTER DRIVE HEAT PUMPS As technology has improved over the years, the engineering of heat pumps has developed enormously and the new series of inverter drive heat pumps is no exception. What has not changed, though, is Toyes's superior level of expertise in designing and manufacturing high quality products customised to suit your needs.

# Tenders of the month –

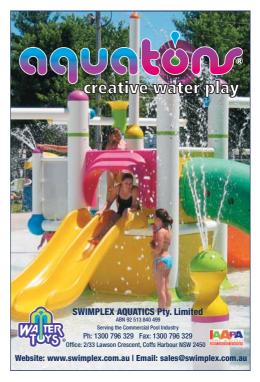
# **Construction of the Evans Head Aquatic Centre**

TENDER ID: 160.09 Close Date: 22 July, 2009 (2pm). Tendering Body: Richmond Valley Council. Description: Tenders sealed and suitably endorsed are invited from qualified organisations/ individuals for the construction of the Evans Head Pool Aquatic Centre. Additional Information: Tender documents and further information may be obtained from Council's website. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted. Canvassing of Councillors will disqualify.

# Supply and Installation of Plant Equipment for the Newman Aquatic Centre

TENDER ID: 5/2008-09. Close Date: 22 July, 2009 (4pm). Tendering Body: Shire of East Pilbara. Description: The Shire of East Pilbara invites tenders from suitably qualified public swimming pool suppliers/contractors for the installation of compliance plant equipment for an existing water playground at Newman Aquatic Centre. Important Information: No late, telephoned, faxed or electronically mailed tenders will be accepted. Canvassing of Councillors or Staff will disqualify. No tender necessarily accepted.

FOR more information on Reed's commercial tender reports call 1800 674 120.



# Hydrotherapy, cerebral palsy and water quality

A recent field day at a Spastic Centre pool highlighted the importance of hydrotherapy in the treatment of affected people, and also provided new ideas on how to treat hydrotherapy pool water.

ydrotherapy is beneficial for all sorts of people - those with chronic pain from ailments such as arthritis, those rehabilitating from accidents or injury, and people with conditions such as cerebral palsy.

Treating people by immersion in hot or warm water has been around for many centuries. It originated in the Roman baths and later the English bath houses, where the benefits of utilising the gentle, healing nature of water became apparent. In balneology

- the science of therapeutic baths
- immersion in mineral spa bath water was considered inherently therapeutic, and hydrotherapy is a natural extension of this.

As well as providing the benefits of immersion in hot water, a hydrotherapy pool provides resistance and weightbearing properties - so specific exercises can be undertaken with less risk of damage to joints, and less problems with balance. The water acts as a therapeutic tool, allowing the exercise of multi-plane movement patterns.

Australian physiotherapists have been at the forefront in the development of hydrotherapeutic exercises utilising the physical properties of water, sometimes as a tool to assist and, in other circumstances, to resist movement

In its medical context, hydrotherapy (or aquatic physiotherapy) had been considered a hospital-only treatment - and even then, only when all other treatments had failed. What research has shown, however, is that not only is hydrotherapy effective, it can reduce the dependence on other forms of treatment. including medications.

# Cerebral palsy

For more than 60 years, the Spastic Centre has provided services for children and adults with cerebral palsy and other disabilities across New South Wales







and the ACT, and currently provides services from more than 70 different sites.

The Spastic Society describes cerebral palsy (CP) as a permanent physical condition that affects movement. Its effect can be as mild as just a weakness in one hand ranging to almost complete lack of movement.

There are three main types of cerebral palsy and each involves the way a person moves. Movements can be unpredictable, muscles can be stiff or tight and in some cases people can have shaky movements or tremors.

People with cerebral palsy may have seizures and other impairments affecting their speech, vision, hearing and/or intellect.

Cerebral palsy, except in its mildest forms, can be seen in the first 12-18 months of life. It presents when children fail to reach movement milestones. Babies most at risk of cerebral palsy are those born prematurely or with low birth-weight.

In Australia it is estimated that a child is born with cerebral palsy every 18 hours. Worldwide, the incidence is the same – 1 in 400 births. There is no pre-birth test and no known cure. For most, the cause is unknown.

# Aquability

Aquability is a program designed by the Spastic Centre that aims to bring pools and people together across New South Wales.

It is a service for children and adults with cerebral palsy or similar conditions. Using the skills of trained aquatic physiotherapists, treatment is carried out in the pool, where the properties of water are used to achieve specific therapeutic goals. Water is the ideal medium for pleasure and enjoyment, as the buoyancy it offers helps people with a disability execute movements that are impossible on land.





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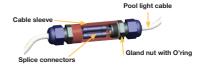
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# "There are great savings of both CO2 and chlorine compared with conventional installations."

The therapeutic effects from hydrotherapy are well documented, providing extensive physical, psychological and social benefits.

Catherine Rofe, manager of Aquability, says that water keeps her clients buoyant and onlimistic

"For many our clients, time in the pool is not only the highlight of their week but the only time they can burst out of the confines of their wheelchair and feel a sense of physical freedom and independence most of us take for granted," she says.

### New ideas in disinfection

In May, 75 people attended a field day at the Aquability pool at Allambie Heights, responding to an open invitation by the centre to view and discuss the installation designed by Aquazure.

The disinfection method included a reduction of chloramines by dissolving ozone in purpose-built, locally designed mixing vessels; eliminating trihalomethanes; continuous automated measuring, dosing and recording of the chloramines together with the regular parameters; use of a deep bed sand filter; intelligent and economic use of CO2 (pH reduction) and sodium hypochlorite in an innovatively designed, flow controlled, shunt line.

The six dozen participants came from all over NSW and a few even came from Brisbane. The day was sponsored by five key equipment and service providers:

- Waterco, who supplied the SMDD 1800 deep bed sand filter;
- Prominent, who supplied the DulcoMarin 630 controller (pH; ORP;Free Cl; Combined Cl: TDS):

- OzoneSwim who supplied two 1200i Series ozone generation units (one gram per hour each):
- BOC, who supplied the Gasmatic CO2 mini-bulk tank; and
- · Wright Pools, who did the installation.

# Blackout proves the case

Alan Lewis from Aquazure describes the events of the day, the sanitisation system put in place, and how it reacted to the complete loss of power (and hence dosing) for an hour.

The Spastic Centre is a wonderful organisation doing amazing work for people afflicted with cerebral palsy. The devotion and dedication of the staff was well illustrated by a short video which tugged the heartstrings of all present.

Those who were fortunate enough to be there, got an inside picture of the unimaginable difficulties the staff face in easing the life of their patients. Most left inspired by the quality, efficiency and selflessness of the staff.

The day in question was wet and overcast, but few were put off by the weather. The day

began disastrously, just before the scheduled start of guided plant room tours, with a power outage at approximately 9:50am.

The first party visited the plant room while the pumps were silent and there was poor light to help see and understand the principles of the installation. While the organisers struggled to provide hot drinks and set up the screening equipment, as well as registering the arrivals and handing out material, others were desperately trying to find an alternative venue with power for the presentations which were to begin at 11am.

Fortunately, the power returned after an hour, and the day could continue as planned. The power outage was important, however – not because of what was observed on the day, but what was observed later. A few days later I had a look at the records from the controller to analyse how the pool had coped with this event. The results were more than satisfactory:

Over the hour without power – there was no circulation; no filtration; no recording; no chlorine feed; no ozone generation; no CO2 feed; and no heating. There were bathers in the pool all the time and they continued to appear throughout the day.

The readings from the Dulcomarin Controller were as follows:

Time	рH	ORP	Free Cl	Chloramines	Т
09:47am	7.23	778 mV	1.77 mg/l	0.78 mg/l	32.9
10:50am	7.31	731mV	2.67	1.62	31.3
11:15am	7.3	781mV	2.78	1.85	32.5
22:54pm	7.2	778mV	1.46	0.62	32.8







The amazing and most critical thing that happened was a drop of 47mV in the ORP, with some apparent cloudiness in the water. The pool had been immaculately clear prior to the power outage. The other thing that happened was an increase in free and combined chlorine due to reactions both in the pool and in the stagnant pipes and filter.

From a health point of view, there was no need whatsoever to close the pool or to dose additional chlorine manually had the ORP fallen below the Health guidelines. The high free chlorine at 10:50am is registered against a massive dose of chlorine just prior to that. The controller is dosing according to a set point for the ORP of 780mV, so when power came back on, it sensed that there had been an unusual drop in the ORP and hence dosed guite a lot of chlorine.

From the pump curve and the filter capacity we know that the turnover time for this pool is 70-odd minutes, which for a pool this size and depth is excellent. The full dispersal time of injected chemical is about five minutes, which was established when we did a dye test early after commissioning the new installation. The controller records an average reading over every five-minute period.

Some of the patients using this hydrotherapy pool are incontinent and because of this we needed to consider a quick

recovery time in the event of faecal accidents, even though every precaution is taken and every bather and carer must shower prior to bathing. The design of this pool takes into consideration such events and this power outage demonstrated that the self-imposed design criteria have been adequately met.

Only 25 minutes after the return of power (11.15am), the ORP returned to the set point and the controller ceased to feed chlorine. On the pH side, even though the pH had risen 0.1 points, CO2 was being gently fed all the while and so it took until 10.54pm to return close to the set point of 7.2. Both of these settings (pH 7.2 & ORP 780mV) allow the pool to cope with a generous buffer of adverse events. This ensures that it can cope with sudden influxes of bathers which immediately raise the pH and the combined chlorine.

As can be seen from the table above, by 10.54pm the free chlorine had dropped to a level of 1.46, and the combined chlorine to 0.62mg/l. This is a result beyond expectations – and will be the envy of most public pools struggling to maintain comfortable conditions

for masses of bathers in large volume pools. It is important to note that from the moment the ORP returned to the set point, no more chlorine was fed – and the CO2 continued to feed. As the pH dropped, the ORP rose until it peaked at 16.01pm with 792mV and 2.42mg/l of free chlorine. The chlorine feed only resumed at 6:32 pm when the ORP dropped to 779 mV with 1.72 mg/l free chlorine in the water. This further illustrates the important role pH control plays in the conservation of chlorine in the disinfection process.

# Ozone as a chloramine reducing agent

The reduction in the level of chloramines is largely due to the Ozone Swim ozone generators. There are two units producing 1 gram of ozone per hour each. This is considered a very low ozone level. However the ozone is injected by means of venturis into two custom-made mixing vessels. Both of these two slipstreams are driven by small %hp pumps which induce hydrodynamic mixing to ensure full dissolution – so that







Two ozone pumps and hydro-kinetic custom-designed and built mixing vessels. Ozone is injected from the two OzoneSwim generators via the 2 vertical venturis – one gram/hour each

no destruction or ozone-quenching is endangering the bathers in the hall.

Instead, this mixing creates "free hydroxyl radicals" which are the most effective way of breaking down combined chlorine. Neither does this process convert trichloramines to trihalomethanes as can happen where UV photolysis is being used for that purpose. The proof here is in the results: even though there were bathers in the pool all day until 6.00pm, the chloramines were reduced from 1.85 at 11.15am, to 0.62 at 10.54pm.

In order to understand the efficiency of the installation at this hydrotherapy pool (at 33°C set-point) it also worth looking at the way the CO2 and the chlorine are fed to gain maximum benefit from the dosed chemical. CO2 is fed into a 30 metre long shunt line with raw unfiltered water by-passing the filter. Both the flow of the water and the CO2 gas in this shunt line are controllable and easy to adjust. Over the length of this line, the aim is to attain full dissolution of the CO2 gas - so that none is wasted. This can be monitored by two short lengths of transparent pipe where is can be observed that the CO2 is entering the pipe at a desired rate, while near the end of that line no bubbles at all are visible. This means that, even at 33°C, all the gas is dissolving into the water. Water entering this line at pH 7.25 is reduced to pH 6.1 at the end of the pipe from where it is possible to take test samples for verification.

It is at the end of this line that the sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) is injected at 6.25%. According to scientifically confirmed tables [see C White 4th edition, 1998] at pH 6.1 @ 30°C, sodium hypochlorite is converted to 96.2% hypochlorous acid (HOCI) – this being the free chlorine we measure in the pool. Were we to inject the chlorine into water at pH 7.2 at the same temperature – only



The two Ozone Swim generators

66.2% would be converted to HOCL. When the water in the shunt line enters the return to pool line it is doing a lot of its disinfection en route to the pool – and hence keeping the ORP steady with very little chlorine.

Consequently there are great savings of both CO2 and chlorine compared with conventional installations.

But there is more! When the injected chlorine joins the ozonated water (in the RTP line) an even more potent action is happening on the way to the pool – because this ozonated water is reducing the combined chlorine, which is also trying to scavenge chlorine for the degradation of the mono-di-trichloramines. In fact it can be safely assumed that no trichloramines ever form in this system. Ozone breaks down both mono- and di-chloramines very effectively and quickly here.

# Minimising backwashing

Finally, a word about the filter. The pressure in the filter is 60KPa which is a reasonably low pressure allowing for good even filtration. Although this filter has a large pre-filter, each of the four skimmer boxes in the pool hall also has a skimmer sock on its basket. So no hair lint or other detritus even reaches the pre-filter. The skimmer socks are the first line of defence and they are cleaned or replaced daily. In this way there is no need to backwash very often at all.

An added feature is that we are dumping into a future recycling tank – 600 litres of water from the sample line (of the controller) per day. This dilution allows for a daily automatic freshening of the pool water at a rate which maintains a reasonable low TDS and dilutes to a certain degree the chloramines in the pool. Hence backwashing or dumping is kept to a minimum.

# **Beating biofilms**

Focus Products' Jayne Orth discusses hydrotherapy pools and water balance

USERS of hydrotherapy pools can often have conditions that are transmissible to other bathers if water balance conditions are not kept properly maintained. Pool water that is incorrectly maintained can lead to the spread of infection, discomfort to the users, damage to surfaces and equipment and great expense due to inefficient operation.

The water quality is dependent not only on the chosen sanitiser but also the filtration and general water balance. These pools are often harder to maintain than a "traditional" pool due to elevated temperatures which have a profound effect on the chosen sanitiser and provide a perfect breeding ground for biofilms. Biofilms are a collection of microbes living together on a wet surface with a food source such as skin cells and dirt.

Pseudomonas, staphylococcus, legionella and various adenoviruses have all been linked to warm water conditions where they thrive. Adequate sanitation is a key part of controlling the risk these colonies make to bathers' health.

Hydrotherapy pools are classified as medium risk, which if following Public Health guidelines should be tested three times a day with information kept on a pool log by a trained operator. The information documented must include the date and time of the test, the level of available sanitiser, pH, temperature and water clarity. Other entries can include TDS, cyanuric acid (if applicable), calcium hardness, and total alkalinity.

It should be remembered that whilst AS3979-2006 relates to hydrotherapy pools, many local states and even councils have codicils with minimum guidelines and operators are encouraged to check that they are also adhering their local guidelines.



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Fernando Fischmann, founder and CEO of Crystal Lagoons Corporation, recently came to Sydney as part of a Chilean innovation delegation, bringing his concept of giant swimming pools with him.

f you don't know the man, you probably know his work. Last year, images of Fernando Fischmann's giant lagoon pool graced the pages of the world's newspapers and travel magazines.

It was an engineering feat that captivated the world: a man-made lagoon built alongside the notoriously dangerous Chilean seafront, large and safe enough for a whole array of water sports and aquatic recreation.

The lagoon at the San Alfonso del Mar resort in Chile is one kilometre long, covers eight hectares and holds 250 million litres of seawater.

The real feat in Fischmann's project, however, was making such an undertaking

economically viable. This is where his patented Crystalline water lagoon technology comes in, employing a low-energy filtration system while making the water clean, clear and safe for public swimming.

In 2007, Fischmann established Crystal Lagoons Corporation to market the lagoon technology overseas, and there are now more than 50 Crystal Lagoon projects around the world in places as diverse as Egypt, Panama, South Africa, Vietnam and the USA.

A qualified biochemist, Fischmann was named Chilean Innovator of the Year.

"I am real estate developer, and have been all my life, and I got a piece of land on the central coast of Chile with the idea of building a resort," says Fischmann. "But the problem with that area is that the sea is really cold and rough – quite dangerous. So I came up with the idea of building a lagoon with beaches so they could bathe and practice water sports the same as in the sea.

"The challenge was how to obtain a good quality of water for so huge a lagoon. The options were to have a murky lagoon, or swimming pools with huge filtration and chemicals and so on. And this lagoon is equivalent to 6000 swimming pools!"

Fischmann hired a well-known Chilean engineer to solve the problem. However the results were not satisfactory – the water clarity was unsuitable.











This led him to search for a solution – and he ended up in Australia, looking at large pools in Queensland in particular, including locations such as Port Douglas and Brisbane. What he saw were large pools that had good quality water, but relied on huge filtration and chlorination plants.

"I was very sad when I saw that, because the volume of water was very small [compared to his planned lagoon], yet you needed a lot of infrastructure and a huge cost to maintain that water. So my problem seemed worse than before I came to Australia. To make my lagoon I would need a whole building just for the equipment and would need trucks coming everyday to bring the chemicals!"

At this point Fischmann decided to conduct the research himself.

"I graduated as a biochemist but never had worked as a biochemist, but in this case it was very useful. I'd done very well as a real estate developer, but I like science – it's my passion, but not my job."

Fischmann keeps the details of his proprietary technology very close to his

chest. However, the basis of the concept is that it uses a pulse system with constant, small quantities of chemicals, controlled by a large number of sensors.

"We use a pulse disinfection system which uses very little chemicals," he says. "We have a lot of sensors all around the lagoon – hundreds of sensors – and injectors which apply very little quantities of chemicals, and a filtration system that uses very little energy.

"Those things are the essence. But also, the plastic we use on the bottom is important. It's a plastic we developed with a company in the United States who normally produce plastics for the mining industry. Now, these are used just for Crystal Lagoons. The same with some of the chemicals we use – they have been developed especially, and are made in the US.

"When someone buys the license, they have access to all of these products. We supply all the know-how and we operate a telemetric system from a centre. Through a computer, we can check the

lagoon anywhere in the world. Most of the developers don't want to get involved in complicated technology – they want it to work perfectly, that's all. They will still need to do some cleaning, but the chemicals are all operated telemetrically.

Although very little pumping is required compared with the same sized swimming pool, the Chilean pool now has such water clarity that there is 35m of visibility underwater.

"Pictures can't tell the whole story," says Fischmann. "You have to be there, when you're faced with this huge volume of water it's weird, it seems to go against common sense. There are eighty-year-olds windsurfing and three-year-olds on boats. The water is clean and it's ten degrees warmer than the sea. You see every kind of water toy – many things you cannot use in pools of course, because of the size."

He now has patents in 113 countries including Australia and New Zealand.

"Today there are 17 lagoons in Chile, yet one year ago there was only one. It is

a standard – if you don't have one of these lagoons on your project on the coast of Chile, you can't compete."

After the success of the coastal lagoons, Fischmann developed a second generation of projects which were inland, operating on fresh water. One enormous project was built on land that cost a mere \$US15,000, because the area was previously considered unsuitable for tourist ventures. But now, with the lagoon as a crucial part of the project, it has become a huge success.

Another interesting concept is developing public swimming areas – such as the large lagoon project built in conjunction with the local government in Santiago, providing facilities in a poor region of the city. Similar projects are being developed in other cities around the world, including Singapore.

Now – a mere 18 months after the first venture got off the ground – Crystal Lagoons is involved in 50 projects around the world, including the new largest pool in the world at the \$US5bn leisure project at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt. The development is five kilometres from the coast, and shows what



# "It only uses two percent of the energy used by a conventional filtration system."

is possible in dry areas which have much in common with parts of Australia.

"In the Red Sea you have very nice resorts, the most exclusive hotels. But inland, in the desert there is nothing. This is in the desert – the idea was to create a whole new water frontage and bring the Red Sea inland. This lagoon is 12 hectares, much larger than the one in Chile. It will open in October and will be the new largest pool in the world."

For Australians and New Zealanders, the exciting news is that there are four projects

on the drawing board for our region. One is in Hervey Bay, Queensland, where the muddy, tidal beach had been an impediment to swimming. Another is in Adelaide where an important large-scale development is set to go ahead. The third one is for a large inland development in Perth where the developers want to provide additional value for the residents. And there is also a project planned for New Zealand.

The big inland projects create exciting possibilities for Australia, and the idea





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# "The big inland projects create exciting possibilties for Australia."

of bringing the sea to the desert could provide a tourist solution for Australia's harsh interior.

"We can obtain water from the sea, but we can also obtain water from bores," says Fischmann. And I have been told in Australia, that when you dig a bore, you get salty water. In the desert we are using salty water that is otherwise useless. But for this purpose, it's very good quality."

Fischmann says that he has been in conversation with some very important

companies here, and believes a project will be built in Australia soon. However, he still needs to go through the various processes such as presenting it to the authorities for regulation.

"This is a 'strange' new product – so we need to explain to the authorities how it operates. We are not too worried, because it is very environmentally friendly. It only uses two percent of the energy used by a conventional filtration system. So we think we have a futuristic way of treating water."







# New products

Here you'll find the latest pool and spa ideas including products to make pools safer and easier to maintain, and ways to make swimmers more comfortable in the water so they can better enjoy their leisure or exercise time. These ideas include new materials and technological advances from manufacturers.

suppliers and service providers, both Australasian and international.

# No more lost hats for sun-safe and funky kids

A couple of Aussie mothers have come up with a clothing line to keep their kids – and everyone else's – looking cool while being protected from the sun.

Rashoodz was designed by two mothers who had problems keeping their babies' hats on in the sun. In addition to solving this problem with the patent Rashoodz design, they were committed to creating a trendier look in sun-safe children's swimwear. They created these designs with both sun-safety-conscious parents and fashion-savvy children in mind. Now with sun-safe and super-styling toddlers of their own, these mums are sharing their swimwear innovation with the world.

Rashoodz are designed for stylish babies to fashionconscious six year olds. They are proudly Australian made and owned and tested as UPF50 plus.

The patent Rashoodz design has a legionnarie's hat attached to the collar by clips, which stops the baby or young child from being able to pull it off. Even if the child does manage to pull the hat off, it will not be lost because it is attached to the back of their rash suit or rash shirt. This design helps eliminate that constant search for lost hats and tedious struggle with babies to keep their hats on.

In the smaller sizes, there are also clips in the crotch area for easy nappy changes. The UPF50+ range is available in sizes 000-6 and is high in chlorine resistance.

For more information go to www.rashoodz.com.au, call 0421 515 714 or email info@rashoodz.com.au.





# THE SOLARBRICK

MELBOURNE-BASED lighting specialist Hotbeam has released new versions of its environmentally friendly paving light, the SolarBrick. It is a self-contained solar powered paving light designed for traffic, pedestrian and landscaping uses. This device is waterproof, easy to install and can be driven over by vehicles. The SolarBrick is available in six attractive colours.

Although it was released in its original version five years ago, renewed enthusiasm for environment-friendly landscaping and lighting products has seen them come out with more models.

The new products are the 100mm square SolarBrick Star, the 100mm round SolarBrick Star and the 200mm round SolarBrick Star. The SolarBrick Classic 200mm (8 x 8) square and 200 x 100mm (8 x 4) sizes are still available.

Contact Hotbeam on (03) 9899 9411 for a detailed datasheet or visit www.hotbeam.com.

# **New from Pool Systems**

# Spa tray table

NEW to the Life spa range is a reinforced, moulded caddy that easily swivels in and out of the spa without interfering with the hard cover. The large sculptured grey tray complements most spa colours and provides plenty of room to hold refreshments. The table is easy to install and comes complete with mounting bracket and hardware. The non-slip table is manufactured from weather resistant plastic, is UV stabilised and chemical resistant.

### Storage boxes

POOL SYSTEMS have just introduced two practical storage boxes to keep the pool and outdoor surrounds tidy. These boxes keep will contents dry and ventilated. Uses include storing pool toys, pool accessories and general backyard items. Maintenance-free, the boxes are lockable for added security and are easy to assemble for use indoors or out. Both units include wheels for easy mobility.

For more information call 1300 366 020 or email sales@poolsystems.com.au.



# In a league of its own.

There are many fine brands contained in this magazine. But when it comes down to it, only one brand should be on everyone's list.

BioGuard®.

With a full range of leading edge products, and water testing technology, BioGuard® continues to provide

your customers with the best pool experience possible. Backed by our own Research and Development Centre, no other brand even comes close.

So when your customers want the best, they'll choose the store that stocks the best. And with BioGuard®, your choice has never been clearer.







# MAKING A MINT ON THE GO

JUST because you're on the road is no excuse for being unable to take credit card payments.

The Mint portable payment system processes credit cards and records other payments simply using a mobile phone or PDA.

The payments are managed and electronically recorded in the time it takes to swipe a credit card and print an invoice - with an easy-to-access audit trail reducing monthly admin time by up to 70 per cent.

The Mint software is loaded onto a smartphone such as a BlackBerry or a Microsoft Windows Mobile device. It comes with a palm-sized credit card reader/invoice printer and a personalised online admin system where all Mint transactions taken by users are wirelessly recorded. The system was developed to break the tedious invoicing and payment cycle that businesses of any size have to endure. It not only simplifies the payment process, it also streamlines cash-flow and reduces accounting time. At the same time it lowers the risk of fraud, theft and bad debts which plague many businesses.

There is also a basic version of the product called MiniMint for sole traders and microbusinesses.

Mint takes advantage of increasingly sophisticated smartphones - from BlackBerry, Motorola, HP, iMate, HTC and Palm - and powerfully fast mobile networks to deliver the following key benefits for business:

- Faster cashflow
- · Dramatically reduced administration costs
- · Instant, up to date, sales reports

This, coupled with the huge technical advances made in mobile phones and the increased speed of data transfers on mobile networks, means that Mint is the ideal solution for mobilising payment and reporting for any size mobile business.

### How Mint works:

- 1. Select products or services: no more hand written dockets. Select items from a centrally managed product/price list.
- 2. Select payment type: collect signatures for card payments electronically. Transaction details are encrypted and transmitted securely and authorisation is received from the bank within seconds. 3. Print or email a tax invoice: provide the customer with a fully itemised tax invoice- on the spot.
- All sales are automatically recorded in the Mint Admin System.

MINT is a scalable solution, and can be used by one or hundreds of users simultaneously. It can be integrated into major accounting, ERP, route management and sales force automation software.

Mint's customers range from companies with large delivery fleets, large national franchises (such as Jim's Group and Tyres 4 U) and smaller businesses ranging from plumbers, locksmiths, driving schools, exhibition companies, caterers and wholesalers.

For more information contact Mint on 1300 761 811 or visit www.mint-wireless.com.







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# ENHANCED RETAIL POS SOFTWARE

RECKON'S new Retail Point of Sale 2009/10 software comes with a host of additions to streamline business so retailers can spend more time with customers and less time doing the books.

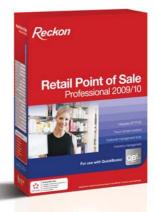
The software is offered in two versions – Retail POS Lite and Retail POS Professional – and it is well suited to a wide range of retailers.

Reckon's Retail POS Lite is ideal for new retailers who require simple but functional software. It includes all the necessary tools to track sales, inventory, customers and accounting. Retail POS Professional contains all of the components in the Lite version with the added benefits of creating promotions and customer loyalty programs.

Both products include several security improvements, along with the ability to restrict access based on defined roles appropriate to each staff member. For example, sales staff can be given access to functions such as the ability to change prices and activate promotions but not inventory management. This gives administrators complete control over the business.

Reckon's Retail POS range integrates seamlessly with the QuickBooks QBi accounting software and simplifies front counter management by showing exactly how a store is performing at any time as well as total sales for the day. It's easy to customise the end-of-day process with cash drawer reconciliation and to set up daily reports to print automatically, including the creation of staff rosters and schedules.

Reckon's Retail POS Lite is priced at \$299 (RRP), Retail POS Professional at \$799 and the Retail Starter Kit at \$999. Each is available from retailers nationwide and at www.quicken.com.au.



# Ment (\*\*

# BIOGUARD REBRANDS SPA PRODUCTS

POOL and spa water management specialists BioGuard have rebranded their spa product range in Australia and New Zealand.

The new range is called BioGuard SPA, and will replace SpaGuard in Australia and SpaCare in New Zealand.

In August, BioGuard will release the first of the newly branded products onto the market including BioGuard SPA Defence, BioGuard SPA Squeaky Clean, BioGuard SPA Performance Up and BioGuard SPA Velvet.

A staged release of the full spa range will follow.

The new look packaging will feature a new logo, label designs and colour coded lids designed to indicate the product's category. A new labelling format will be used to promote the product benefits to the consumer.

The rebrand of the spa range follows BioGuard's move towards benefits-focused packaging, which is now featured throughout the company's pool care product range.

BioGuard Marketing Manager, James Badger says that streamlining their product range and packaging design for Australia and New Zealand made sense. "BioGuard is a trusted and respected brand, so we thought it wise to make it clearer that we're the company behind the spa range," he says. "The BioGuard SPA range will provide retailers with an opportunity to attract new customers, increase sales and generate new interest in spa care from existing customers.

"In turn, we expect the rebranding will lead to greater recognition and shelf presence for our spa range."

BioGuard will be supporting the launch of BioGuard SPA with a comprehensive marketing campaign.

Over the past 18 months, BioGuard has made significant improvements to its branding with changes being made to its product packaging, website and product catalogues.

For more information visit www.bioguard.com.



# Daisy Sells

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For more information please contact us 1300 551 811 or visit our website www.daisypoolcovers.com.au



# Giant plastic pump

Spanish manufacturer Bombas PSH has launched a Giant plastic swimming pool pump. The Giant pump comes with logarithmic scroll and in sizes from 4hp to a whopping 12.5hp.

Bombas says that Giant is the first swimming pool pump manufactured in plastic with a logarithmic scroll.

"Since the introduction of plastic for industrial purposes, the pump manufacturers have tried to replace the traditional cast iron by plastic to obtain lower costs and to avoid corrosion problems." says the company.

"The problems of manufacturing in plastic, in particular removing from the mould, have so far prevented the manufacture of plastic pumps with logarithmic scroll, and all the pumps on the market are consequently plastic pumps with a diffuser.

"Pumps with logarithmic scroll have better performances than pumps with a diffuser. The solution offered by Bombas is based on the division of a logarithmic scroll in two halves which solves the problem of removing it from the mould, and for the first time allows the manufacture of such pumps."

Bombas PSH is a Spanish company founded in 1910, manufacturing pumps and accessories for swimming pools. Its main product lines are focused on the manufacture of swimming pool pumps in plastic, cast iron and bronze.

For more information, email bombaspsh@bombaspsh.com.







Hayward has been a world leader in pool cleaners for decades. Now their Phantom s the new benchmark for pool cleaners. Powered by a continuous jet of water from its booster pump, it gently glides across the pool surface; cleaning without any wear and tear. And then, like a jet, it actually flies! Phantom's patented system of water jets carry it to the surface where it scoops up leaves and other floating debris. Amazing! Another Hayward first.

To hear more about Hayward's revolutionary Phantom just ring 1300 POOLS1 or visit www.cleva.com.au



At the EXPO see the amazing Phantom on the ClevaQuip Stand.

# PLUNGING INTO HYDROTHERAPY

FREEDOM Pools and Spas has released a new pool model, combining hydrotherapy in a small plunge pool.

The HydroPlunge is a massage therapy pool specially designed for back and body massage. The recliner lounge has an air blower fitted for back massage and the massage bay has 30 air-boosted water jets massaging the entire back and legs.

The HydroPlunge pool is the next stage up from a spa pool as people can stand up and move around the pool for a soothing therapy massage.

It measures 2.8m long x 2m wide and 1.4m to 1.7m deep.

It can easily be heated and is virtually self-cleaning. Freedom supplies and installs the HydroPlunge pool from any one of their display centres in Perth or Queensland.

Dealers enquiries are welcome. For more information contact (07) 3386 6000 in Queensland or (08) 9492 0600 in Perth.

Ph: 1300 OZONE1 (1300 696 631)





www.ozoneswim.com.au



# ATTENTION-GRABBING REPLACEMENT GLOBE

Glow & Flow has released a new Echidna replacement globe for underwater lights.

Glow and Flow says the Echidna 31 RG (Replacement Globe) with Lens is a new and different replacement globe for pool lights, and is perfect for pool renovators and shops.

Glow and Flow nominates the benefits as:

- · There is no dirty old lens to cloud the light output;
- · It is totally waterproof and utilises the latest LED components and circuitry, giving an estimated 50,000 hour lamp life. That's six years at 24 hours per
- · It has 31 high-brilliance LEDs that provide equal, if not better, performance than experienced before. The light emitted from LEDs is much more pleasant to the eye than the harsh light of the old style lights.
- . The old AC transformer must be changed to the safer 12V DC regulated power supply which must be mounted in a weatherproof enclosure;
  - Ton: Stroud ove: RG with Lens

· Service people do not have to learn anything new as all the parts required and the installation instructions are included in the package. It's suitable for Waterco, Stroud and Spa Electric

lights, and other sizes to fit other lights can be ordered. It comes in white, blue or green LED colours.

For more information go to www.glowandflow.com or call (07) 5562 0043.





# No more fumes

Lo-Chlor has released a new product called Fume-Away. Simply add 330ml of Fume-Away per 5L of hydrochloric acid to reduce nasty vapours, odours and the fumes. Lo-Chlor Fume-Away can be used in conjunction with hydrochloric acid for cleaning pool surfaces more quickly and more efficiently than acid alone.

Lo-Chlor Fume-Away inhibits the corrosive characteristics of hydrochloric acid. It contains a detergent that aids in removing oils and greases, minimises streaking and plaster loss. It also retards corrosion of metal surfaces such as metal fixtures in the pool, metal drains and metal enclosures around the pool. It saves time and money by reducing the amount of acid needed, reduces fuming, cutting through oils and grease, and promoting more uniform cleaning. Additionally, there is no need to remove metal fixtures.

It is currently available in a one-litre bottle.

For more information call 1800 64 POOL (1800 64 7665) or email info@lo-chlor.com.au.





# Haven't you heard?



For more information, contact Peter Rabbidge on (02) 4651 2377 or (0407) 078 075 | www.zelbrite.com



# SAFE LOCKING VALVES

AIR & Hydraulic Systems has released a complete range of lockable ball, butterfly and diaphragm valves, from Austrian thermoplastic valve manufacturer, Praher Valves.

All butterfly valves, diaphragm valves and 'S4' type ball valves are now supplied complete with a locking mechanism at no extra charge.

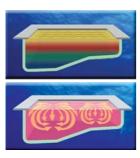
Praher's patented locking mechanism permits the operator to select either the open or closed position of the valve and secure it in that position with the aid of a padlock or similar locking device. In the case of the butterfly and diaphragm valves, the hand lever/hand wheel may be locked in open, closed or a variety of increments in between.

Praher 'S4' ball valves are rated to 16-bar, are double union type and available in sizes from DN10 to DN100. Butterfly valves are available in sizes from DN80 to DN200, diaphragm valves from DN10 to DN125, and both are rated to 10-bar.

Praher ball, butterfly and diaphragm valves are also available with pneumatic or electric actuators, proportional controllers, and position indicator switches if required.

Large stocks are available for fast delivery from Air & Hydraulic's Sydney warehouse. For more information call (02) 9939-6199 or email sales@ahs.com.au.





# NASA DESIGNER HELPS POOL WATER CIRCULATION

A NASA engineer has helped solve the problem of high pool costs and low circulation efficiency by designing a gadget that retrofits onto existing pools.

Additionally, the carbon emissions saving of an average household pool using The Circulator could be up to three tonnes per year, according to Ian Jones, director of Bioniser, distributor of the Circulator. The Circulator fits into existing water outlets in pools and activates water movement enough to disburse chemicals and heat up to 40 per cent more efficiently, thus saving electricity and chemical costs.

The gadget was invented by NASA senior engineer Dan Jones, a member of the NASA space shuttle launch team who specialises in structural, thermal, fluid and mechanical engineering. For further information call Ian Jones on 0434 531 886 or (07) 5473 0900 or visit www.thecirculator.com.

Top left: Without circulation assistance, water forms layers Left: With the Circulator, heat and chemicals are evenly distributed





# Palintest streamlines website

Palintest has launched a new website, making easier to access detailed information on its range of analysis technology.

Localised versions for the UK, USA, China, Australia and Asia Pacific regions are now fully live and ready for visitors, with French, Spanish and German language sites online soon.

The new site offers news, instruction manuals, and MSDS downloads, as well as technical product, reagent and ordering information that will be continually updated.

Palintest\*

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Customers can now also sign up to a newsletter to be automatically informed of the latest developments at Palintest. The site has been designed to be as user-friendly and easy-to-use as possible, while quickly providing visitors with the information they are looking for, in as much or little detail as they need.

From the homepage, choosing a different testing situation (e.g. Wastewater, Pool & Spa, Industrial) will take users directly to a list of products applicable for that sector. For users who know exactly what they need already, a quick-find drop-down menu takes them straight there. Each product has its own web page, with a brief description and assorted further information. Product codes for quick ordering are listed, along with related reagents, technical datasheets and even instruction manuals available for download.

To visit the site go to www.palintest.com.



www.enviroswim.com

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# MINIMISE LANDSCAPING WATER USE

DEBCO has released several products to help reduce the amount of water a garden will require.

Debco manufactures SaturAid Soil Wetter to help gardeners reduce their water use and get great results from their gardens.

SaturAid Granular Soil Wetter makes water soak deep down to the root zone of garden beds, pots and lawns for stronger, deeper root systems and healthier plants and lawns. It works immediately so watering, rainfall and liquid feeding are more

effective, even in hard-to wet sandy, clay or compacted soils and potting mixes. SaturAid has a sustained, slow release wetting power for continued results, and is the choice of leading professional growers. It is endorsed by the Smart Approved WaterMark.

Debco also makes mulches which can reduce water evaporation by up to 70 per cent – an essential part of any water-wise garden, especially in times of drought.

Debco Mulch is made from high quality pine bark, and is weed-, seed- and contaminate-free. It will:

- · Retain water in the soil layer by slowing evaporation;
- Allow water to penetrate to the soil level more quickly due to the larger particle size;
- · Add organic matter and nutrients to the soil through the gradual breakdown of the mulch material;
- Control soil temperature by helping soil retain more heat in spring and autumn, and by keeping soil cool during hot and variable summer conditions;
- · Control weeds by blocking the sunlight necessary for germination;
- · Repel insects;
- · Reduce erosion & water run-off during watering.

The purchases of Debco Mulches are redeemable in the State Government Rebate Program – check your State Government website for details and claim forms.

For further information or comments please contact Mark Ellis on marke@debco.com.au or  $0417\ 234\ 887$ .





# DAIMER LOOKING FOR AUSSIE DISTRIBUTORS OF ECO-GREEN

DAIMER Industries, a leading US manufacturer and distributor of commercial cleaning products, announced a line of Eco-Green, eco-friendly, lawn and turf, geese and bird control, pest control and cleaning chemicals specifically designed for the landscaping industry.

"With the increased awareness of the dangers associated with commercial and industrial chemical preparations, it has become essential for virtually every industry to seek environmentally-friendly alternatives," says Eco-Green spokesperson Matthew Baratta.

"Daimer's new Eco-Green products were designed to set a new green standard for the landscaping industry. Our product line-up eliminates the negative environmental impacts, health risks and liability associated with the use of traditional chemical preparations. And they're effective on grease and dirt."

Daimer's Eco-Green formulations for the landscaping industry are derived from plants and vegetables without any ozone-depleting substances, synthetics or volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In addition, Eco-Green products have been certified as Readily Biodegradable. The chemicals biodegrade by more than 90 per cent within 28 days, or about 50 per cent faster than most competitors, according to testing performed by an internationally known laboratory. The products are also safe to use and clean with a high level of safety as evidenced by all zero values on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) hazard diamond.

The Eco-Green line of landscaping industry products includes two degreasers and a concrete cleaner. Ultra-Power Degreaser quickly penetrates grease, oil and dirt and can be used on equipment, tools and industrial flooring. Ultra-Power Parts Washer & Cleaner is

a more specialised product that also dissolves grease, oil and other organic substances.

Concrete Cleaner with Rust Stain Remover is a fast-acting concrete cleaner that removes rust stains, dirt, grease, grime, oil, mildew, algae and other substances from common stone surfaces, such as sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and brick. Pest control products include Goose & Bird Control, Natural Pest Control, and Gypsv Moth Pest Control.

For more information contact roger@daimer.com or visit www.daimer.com.







# Structure studios improvements

# **New website**

The leader in 3D pool design software, Structure Studios, has launched a completely redesigned website. The advanced new features and interface make it even easier for industry professionals from all over the world to access the latest Pool Studio information and connect with Structure Studios. The public can download Pool Studio; locate a training class; find answers to questions; and even get started with a Pool Studio Membership at either www.structurestudios.com or www.poolstudio.com.

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STRICTURE STUDIOS

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Visitors to the website can:

- Immerse themselves in high resolution videos of Pool Studio's stunning 3D features;
- Discover Pool Studio's dramatic sales advantage;
- Download the latest version of Pool Studio:
- Get started with a Pool Studio membership:
- Connect with Pool Studio support and training;
- See the complete list of vendor partners available in Pool Studio;
- Join the online support forums for many helpful hints and answers to the most complex questions:
- Explore Structure Studios' corporate history and the powerful solutions offered by its 3D technology;
- View open positions available with the Structure Studios team.

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# Now with more trees

Pool Studio now boasts more than 100 extra fully rendered 3D plants and trees. The new landscaping components download automatically with the latest update to Pool Studio, and are additional to the hundreds of landscaping items already available in the Pool Studio library. Each model is hand crafted in ultra high 3D detail, complete with 77.000 variations.

To learn more about Structure Studios or Pool Studio visit www.StructureStudios.com or www.poolstudio.com.



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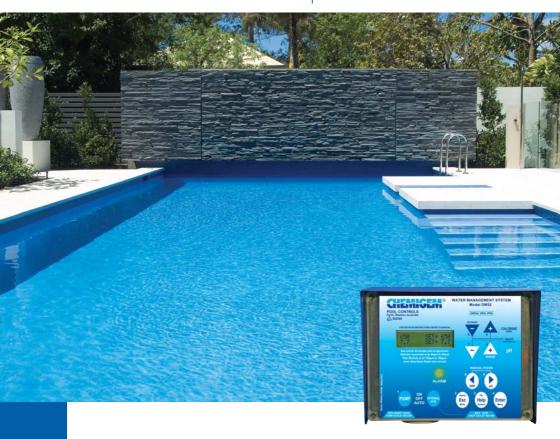
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