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Waterco Case Study | Pools iN Schoolz

Waterco helps take pools to schools

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*Mike Alexander,
Waterco Ltd New Zealand manager.*



PoolZ iN SchoolZ provides covered and heated 10m portable pools free of charge to schools around New Zealand.

Unique pop-up pool program teaches children how to swim

A unique program in New Zealand is literally taking pools to schools – and Waterco Ltd is playing a vital role with the provision of its new Hydroxypure chlorine-free sanitisation system and other pool equipment.

The Pools iN SchoolZ program is run by the Adam Brown Water Safety Trust, and it aims to ensure lower-decile school children aren’t prevented from learning water safety and swimming skills by the lack of access to swimming pools.

The program is the brainchild of Dr Ian Calhaem, a former member of the Watersafe advisory board. He asked the simple question: “If it is impractical to take the kids to a pool, why not take a pool to the kids?”

And that’s exactly what he’s done. Pools iN Schoolz involves literally taking portable pools into schools to teach children how to swim. Today PoolZ iN SchoolZ provides covered and heated 10m portable pools free of charge to schools around New Zealand (each pool rotates between four schools in a year). It also funds water safety education.

And for each pool, Waterco has provided a Hydroxypure sanitisation system, MultiCyclone centrifugal filtration device, two S702 Micron fibreglass filters, a Supatuf 250 pump and an Electroheat heat pump.



Hydroxypure sanitisation system, two Micron S702 fibreglass filters, a Supatuf 250 pump and an Electroheat heat pump is installed on every pool.

Quality and dependable equipment crucial

When Dr Calhaem contacted Waterco to ask if it would like to be involved in the program, there was no hesitation in accepting.

“We thought it was a brilliant idea, and we now provide equipment for all 16 pools which travel around the country,” says Mike Alexander, Waterco Ltd New Zealand manager.

“Each pool in the Pools iN SchoolZ program is used by up to 200 students a day, so it’s crucial to have quality, dependable pumps, filters, heat pumps and sanitation to maximise the opportunity for these kids to become proficient around water.

“The reaction to and interest in the Hydroxypure sanitation system has been remarkable, as it creates a truly chlorine-free swimming pool that is ideal for anyone with respiratory problems or skin allergies like asthma or eczema – conditions that are exacerbated by exposure to pool chlorine. This was especially important with the increasing number of children who have a reaction to chlorine.”

Hydroxypure is endorsed by the National Asthma Council of Australia and approved by its Sensitive Choice® program.

Water safety and awareness

Named after trustee David Brown’s oldest son Adam, who died in a freak jetski accident in 2003, the pop-up pool initiative started in 2011 and is designed to circumnavigate the decreasing number of schools able to afford the upkeep of an onsite swimming pool and the cost of taking kids to community pools. Pools iN SchoolZ’ mission is to ensure that the lack of access to a swimming pool doesn’t hinder primary schools from teaching water safety.

According to Mr Brown, more than 40 per cent of children in primary schools do not have access to a pool. “It’s all about water safety and also just getting kids to be aware of how to swim.”

Dr Calhaem conceived the idea of taking portable pools to primary schools in late 2009. He designed, funded and built a pilot unit that was successfully trialled by WaterSafe Auckland, proving that portable pools are practical and cost effective.

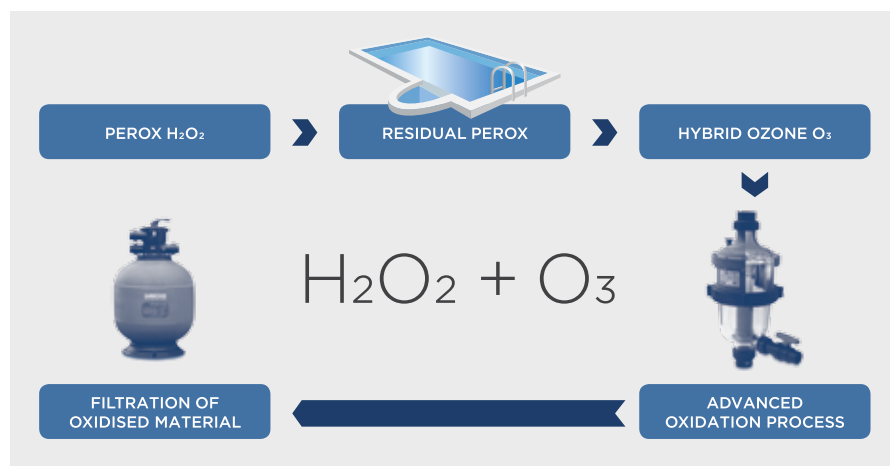
Vital need for program

Only a fifth of 12-year-olds in New Zealand can swim 200m, the minimum survival standard set by Water Safety New Zealand. About a quarter of all primary school students are unable to swim 25 metres, tread water or keep afloat.

New Zealand’s annual drowning toll is one of the worst in the developed world, with Kiwi children less able to swim than a generation ago. In the five years between 2008 and 2012, an average of 100 people died from drowning in New Zealand waters each year.

Tellingly, 42 per cent of schools do not have a pool and nearly 20 per cent of school pools have closed in the last decade.

“We are happy to be involved with such a worthy cause as Pools iN SchoolZ,” Mike Alexander adds. “Anything that can help reduce the tragic number of kids drowning each year is to be lauded. This type of education really can save lives.”



Hydroxypure sanitisation is based on the Advance Oxidation Process. (AOP), which combines Perox, a chlorine free sanitiser (H₂O₂) and hybrid ozone (O₃) to create one of the most powerful oxidisers in nature.



Sensitive Choice® blue butterfly recognises products and services that support asthma and allergy care.