

➤ **FILTER FIXATION (June 4x4 Australia – p.117
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It came as a hell of a shock to find my standard fuel filter alive with gunk – this with just 17,000 km on the clock.

Somewhere along the line I had picked up some rotten fuel which had deposited, at best, just water into my tank, but had most probably also dumped the beginnings of the algae growth which had bloomed in the dark confines of my fuel tank.

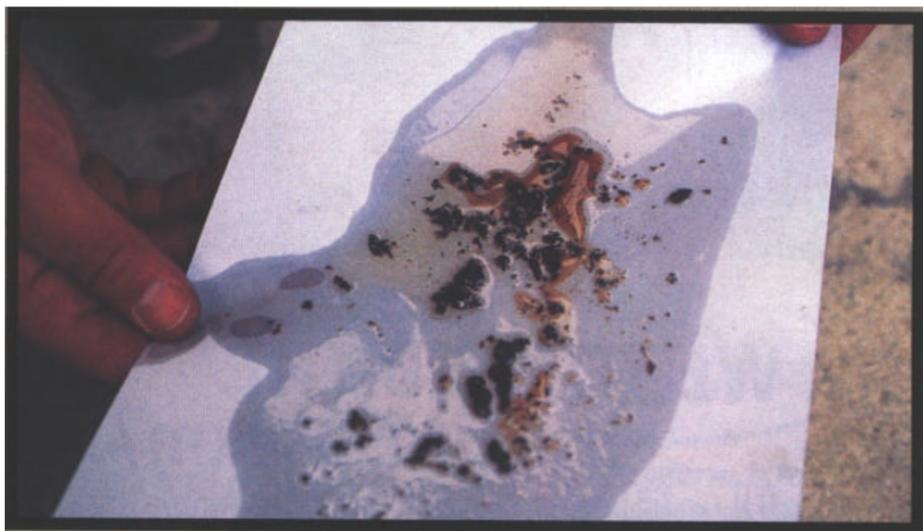
Two types of algae were present – the light-brown algae which adheres to water and the dark black algae which likes other impurities. Experts would probably tell us there are a few others around that live in fuel but what I could see with my own eyes was startling enough.

While there is nothing wrong with the standard Nissan fuel filter - the catching of the water and the algae testimony of that -- I really wanted a glass sediment bowl in the system so I could immediately see if there was any junk in the fuel. With that, Berrima fitted a special adaptor that could take a Lucas/CAV296 filter element with a glass sediment bowl

on the bottom. These filters are very common, being manufactured for various suppliers apart from Lucas and are used on numerous and different engines around the world. Importantly, they filter down to five micron, which is as good as the best of them and better than many cheaper fuel filters on the scene. We've used these units before and have been impressed with their operation, so I'm sure we won't be disappointed this time around.

The filter elements for the Lucas cost about \$9-\$10 and are much less expensive than OE replacement filters, so it doesn't take long before you have recouped the \$140 or so it costs for the change-over.

As it's almost certain there'll still be algae in the fuel tanks, we'll also be fitting a De-Bug fuel treatment unit. These units look like a fuel filter, but have some strong magnets inside which kills all the algae. Available from Morison & Morison (Ph: 03 9515 0771), we'll give them a go and report on how effective they are in an upcoming issue.



Gunk from the fuel filter - both the dark black and the lighter brown material are different forms of algae