

Vase® NEWS

VICTORY AUDIOPHONIC SOUND EQUIPMENT

March 2010

It has been pointed out by many people who knew **Tony Troughton** that in addition to having a vision and a passion, he was receptive and accepting of input. Hence the wide array of virtually custom work he did for his customers. The VASE team may be the ones who have taken up the challenge of relaunching the great VASE line but they are also well aware that they are, in reality, merely the caretakers of something that has touched so many people and still holds their interest and that this is truly a team effort and the team extends far beyond the small core group here.

The interest and encouragement shown by all of you is a vital part of this new endeavor. Knowing you are out there spurs us on. **Matt Fairhurst**, in particular has been spurred on this month as he counted down to the opening of the long awaited VASE web page. Read more about it below.

As always, if anyone would like a copy of previous newsletters, drop me a line at carol@vase.com.au

The VASE website is up and running! <http://www.vase.com.au>

The fledging web site is far from complete. It is, however, a great start. After brainstorming with the VASE team, **Matt Fairhurst** has taken their vision and brought it to fruition. Have a look and let us know what you think.

The site will be a place to peruse product details and view hi-res photos of the VASE lines. It will have a VASE community forum as well as VASE history and story.

There are promotional and demonstrational videos coming in March-April and features on VASE artists also coming soon.

It will be a source of breaking news as well.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding the site, address them to matt@vase.com.au

VASE "Workhorse" in pretty good nick cosmetically and still "sounds awesome"!

Pictured this month is a VASE rig owned by **Gary Turner** of Bundaberg Queensland. He is the second owner, having purchased it from his uncle who acquired it in the 60's from **Andersen's Music** in Bundaberg.

Gary says, although the amp's "cosmetics are lacking", it is in perfect operational order and has been a very regular workhorse its whole life. According to Gary it "still sounds awesome!"

Graeme Whitehouse who corresponded with Gary complimented the amp on being in "pretty good nick" for being "no youngster after all". He questioned Gary about the tubes and drivers.

It seems the tubes are 6L6's and the 2 speakers are the original 15 inch speakers with an impedance of 15 ohms each.

Incidentally, Andersen's was in business until the late 90's and Gary still is very good friends with one of the owners. Gary also reports that there's a sports club in Bundaberg that has been around since the 60's that sports a VASE P.A. which Gary's uncle (the original owner of the VASE pictured) installed as a house P.A. Back in the 70's Gary's uncle was playing 5 days a week at the sports club with his band.



VASE Phraseology

Reader **John Hall** is behind the VASEism on the shirt to the right. Well, in all honesty, he suggested it as something we would NOT want to use. Below is another of my feeble attempts. Help, save me! Come up with something even sillier!



FEEDBACK

John Hall jumps in to the VASE PHRASE fray (see above). Thanks for your contribution, John. He also has questions regarding the new prototype and some kind words for some of the folks involved in the VASE reincarnation. Thanks for taking the time to let us hear from you!

Hi you guys. Trying to think of clever names for the new line of Vase amps, we came up with one that you SHOULDN'T use.....the "Vase-line" or "Vaseline"!

Anyway, keep up the good work.....I've still got an old 'Matra' Series 50 - 15 S/S bass combo that works well after all these years!

P.S: Is that Leon Franken's 5-way tone-shaping "graphic/volume" pre-amp in your new prototype 1,000 watt Bass amp?

Kind Regards, John J Hall

Hey John, may be some potential there: "Ease your way into the VASE experience: try our new VASEline." Maybe not...

Regarding your P.S. Gra or Noel will get back to you. Guys?

Thanks for your interest, Carol

Hi John, thanks for your letter.

Yes the tone network is a derivative of Leon's design. He showed it to us some time ago and we thought it was a great sounding front-end. Obviously we've done a few things to integrate it with all the other bits that go into making a functional bass head but the tone design is certainly Leon's and we love it. It's great to have another uniquely Brisbane contribution to rebuilding this classic Aussie brand.

Regards,
Graeme Whitehouse
Victory Audiophonic Sound Equipment

Thanks for the reply, Graeme, and for being frank about Leon's design. He has been a friend, and help to repair things, for about thirty years now (even before he worked at Matra at West End), and it really is good, as you say, to have another unique Brisbane contribution through such a genuinely nice person such as Leon (and, actually, Noel Bourne is another genuinely nice person, who is often very giving of himself, and his skills). It is a good thing that we still have some very wonderful dedicated characters in the Brisbane music scene; A niche that all-too-often contains true mongrels. (latin - "illegitimi")

By the way, congrats on the little 15 watt prototype. I heard it live one night, played by Ronnie Delbridge, at Easts leagues Club a fair while ago. Leon was playing bass with him there one night, and I dropped in to visit on my way home from a gig. It had a lovely break-up, and I've always believed 15 watts is a perfect wattage for a great many Brisbane clubs, lined or miked into the PA! Very impressive it was (2 x EL84's by the sound of it). Keep up the good work. Put line-out facilities on the back, if you're able, a la Matchless Spitfire, to add to the versatility of your amps.

Kind Regards, John J Hall



This issue marks the end of our first full year of VASE NEWS. Is it just my imagination or has time sped up? The next year should be a fast, busy one as well and bring many changes as the research, development and testing gives way to flat out manufacturing. We will be looking ahead as well as having some looks at the past as your VASE stories continue to make their way to us.

Stay tuned!
Carol