

May 2011

As another month rolls around we're back with a new feature. Part of the great joy of being a part of the VASE resurrection for us is meeting the people associated with VASE both from the past and the new "converts". Our **Vase Insiders Profile (VIP)** will help introduce you to each other.

Some sad news this month as Owen Ray is having to clean up after a fire next door to his "International Music" shop in Toowoomba resulted in damage to his shop. Unfortunately, he is unable to help you with your VASE needs at this time.

We also have another one of those "out of the shed" stories regarding neglected old VASE gear given a new lease on life.

Sad News for Latest VASE Dealer

Sad news for our new dealer in Toowoomba, **Owen Ray of International Music**: a fire in the building next door spread and his business was flooded by efforts to control the fire.

He has been instructed to vacate the building as it is unsafe. Everything is in the hands of the insurance company at this point and he will be relocating to another complex.

Owen said "heart wrenching as it is" he has no Vase stock and is unable to function as a dealer at this time.

He asked me to let you know however, that there was going to be a huge clearance sale- by the insurance company- of guitars, other musical instruments, P.A.s and such that were undamaged in the fire and aftermath. He wasn't entirely sure where this would be held but if you're interested, give him a call or contact us and we'll try to find out. He indicated the items may be transported to Brisbane for the sale.



Thought you might be interested in seeing a cross section of current VASE users and enthusiasts. Pictured right is bass player **Ross (call me "Jimmy") Prior**, with his newly purchased VASE rig.

Jimmy first played through VASE when he was with Mason Rack. He is now with a band named **Versuive**. He contacted VASE:

Hi guys, I was playing with Mason Rack last year and was impressed with the Vase cab i was using. I would like to upgrade from what i use atm which is a 4x10 marshal quad to a 6x10 to replace. The band I just joined is called Verusive <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLwvxHMnb-A> and we're starting to tour. The 2 guitarists in my band use Mesa Boogie Dual rectifiers. We went to Sydney for shows last week and my Marshall Quad isn't really cutting it up against them.

They want me to get a Mesa Cab but I would rather be using Vase products. We have a lot of shows coming up and I need to act reasonably fast on what cab I go with. This band is going to explode into the global market and I'd like Vase to be a part of it when it does to support Aussie products.

“ This band is going to explode into the global market... ”

Jimmy ended up purchasing a Vase Dynabass Classic 1K and a Vase 8X10 Cabinet.

A serious musician and student, in addition to playing with Verusive, Jimmy is working towards a Bachelor in Jazz performance at Jazzworx.

A reminder: the place to try and buy VASE products is [Tym Guitars 5E Winn Street Brisbane](#).

Extreme Makeover VASE Style

Heard from **Derek Bovill of Production Jungle**. He'd found a 1964 Bassman BGB80 at a garage sale for \$20. It had been sitting around in a shed and was full of hornets' nests.

Derek contacted us for information regarding components and circuitry, but when we were a tad slow responding he found a post on the web of a similar amp and used it as a reference (tenacious bunch these VASE insiders!). Here's the link to the amp he found on the internet: <http://s167.photobucket.com/albums/u133/fuzzpig/bgb80%20guts/>. (You might have to cut and paste to get it to open).

According to Derek:

The serial number on that one is only 18 earlier than the one I've been doing up.

Also, it's pretty standard circuitry - got a lot in common with Fender. One good feature is that it has a bias adjust & separate bias balance pot. I had to add a resistor in there to get the bias in a decent range.

The tubes are 12AU7, 12AX7, & 6BL8 (was originally a 7199 but now they are rare, so a couple of wires were swapped around on the tube socket so a 6BL8 could be used instead), and two 6L6 (could have been KT88 in there originally)"

So Derek replaced burnt up resistors and leaky caps and replaced what looked like the original tubes. That and a general cleanup had it back in action. According to Derek, it was sounding good.

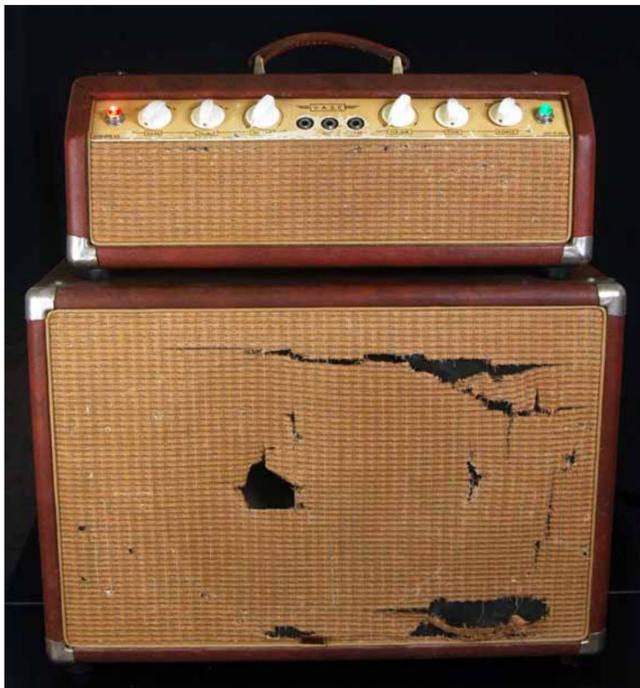
Its looks were another matter:

"It would be nice to replace the grille cloth. Is it also possible to get the old style Vase logo's?"

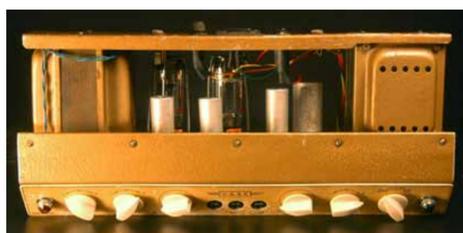
*** You've come to the right place!**

We invited Derek to look over the VASE site and play with the possible grille cloth colours. His original was a bit of an anomaly, the "Vaseperts" around here figured it was Fender grille cloth.

Grille cloth in Derek's choice of **Vintage** and replacement badges were swiftly dispatched. We're awaiting "after" photos.



1964 Bassman BGB80



The rare Ricochet featured last month has prompted some feedback from guys who were around when it made its debut. Thanks to John Burnett, Mal O'Neill and Gary Broadhurst for these insights into the past!

Hi Carol

At long last you found a Ricochet. We made 2. I can't remember who bought the first one it may have been Jeff Bean, the second one went to Ron at Nundah Music center to be retailed. But the money had to be refunded. The pics brings back the memories. Unfortunately they were dog's, the tape mechanism shows how clever Tony was, but he refused to communicate with others who were more knowledgeable on the details than he was. Understandably the others were German electronic engineers, many of whom I got to know later.

The primary issue with the loop tape was sticking, stretching and emulsion breakdown which was very rapid. Tony did not take an approach to open architecture, enabling the tape system to be easily accessible or to be serviced, or even replaced by it by being designed as an accessory adaption enabling it to be independantly plugged, slid in and out. Why he was blind to this approach something we will never know.

Best regards

John (Burnett)

Hi Carol,

You were away the day I visited VASE, would have liked to have had a yarn.

I was visiting Tony when he was testing the Ricochet. He had an old guitar and was amusing himself making "frog croaks". I would have thought there would have been a few of them around, a very ingenious design or at least conception. This would have been around the time he sent me the letter I left with Harry.

I learned a lot from Tony, upset him once, I asked him if he was an engineer or a valve jockey. The reaction was a bit violent. Still remained friends, though.

Good times in the "old days"

Regards,

Mal O'Neill.

Gary Broadhurst here - If my memory serves me, I have only seen one of these in the Vase factory at Brekkie Creek in my time there, approx 1972 till '76. Seeing the pictures jogged my memory because I had forgotten such an amp existed as well.

Amazing that the tape loop still works. I think I also remember Tony "servicing" it (probably his pet job) being as there are only very few in existence.

Cheers, Gary.

Okay, folks, that's it for another month. Welcome to any new readers. A reminder that past issues can be found on the VASE web site www.vase.com.au.

Send us some news and pictures on any VASE "Out and About" events. Or, better yet, an advance notice of any dates that we could pass on to those interested. We all like to see/hear VASE in action.

Confession: I made a mistake in the March 2011 Newsletter. Didn't realize until I was putting this together. See if you can catch it. A free VASE shirt to the first one to report in...

Whoops!, Carol info@vase.com.au

