

November 2012

Hello again VASE folk. Exciting news this month. We've launching our completely restored and reinvigorated web site. We're also happy to tell you about an event coming up, a 70's band reunion scheduled for November 24. Catch some of the bands pictured in the VASE photo archives! We'll be there, hope to see you. As ever, we love your stories and pictures. We've shared some below.

VASE Website Undergoes Update

"Totally restored." That's the word from Richard Faint who has spent the last few months bringing the VASE website up to par.

As Richard notes, everyone at VASE has been busy designing and engineering the new range of guitar and Bass amplifiers along with all the new Loudspeaker Cabinets to go with them.

Everyone here is a musician/engineer/sound specialist (or in my case psychologist) so when things such as newsletters and websites are done, it is as a sideline and some of us are learning as we go.

Always of the "build it and they will come" school of thought, the VASE team's first and foremost efforts are aimed at making the best product they can produce.

Getting the word out hasn't always been our strong suit. We do appreciate the support of our well, supporters. You guys. The ones who show interest and appreciation and keep us going.

We do pledge now to keep the website up to date and interesting. (Early New Year's Resolutions?)

Check out the complete listing of Guitar and Bass Amplifiers and Guitar and Bass Loudspeaker Cabinets with specifications and photos of all.

There's also a new Gallery section with photos past and present. All past newsletters are available on line.

The whole site should be faster, more efficient, informative and interesting. Let us know what you think.

www.vase.com.au

TOTALLY RESTORED - www.vase.com.au

Everyone here at VASE has been busy designing and engineering the new range of Guitar and Bass Amplifiers along with all the new Loudspeaker Cabinets to go with them. Unfortunately the website has been let slip. A bit like that old vintage guitar under the bed, dusty but not forgotten.

So now we've put that right with a complete website restoration. Lots of new content, all the product specifications and newsletters along with a new glossy finish and a great artwork!

- All the Guitar and Bass Amplifiers Description, Specifications and Photographs
- All the Guitar and Bass Loudspeaker Cabinets Specifications and Photographs
- All the Newsletters and Feature Articles Available for download
- Photograph Galleries of VASE Artists Present and Past with more photo's to come
- Instant Contact with everyone at VASE Sign on for the highly informative and entertaining VASE Newsletter

GREAT AUSTRALIAN BASSISTS



James Gillard Harry Brus George Mc Ardle

Christmas ROCK Reunion Show

SAT November 24
6:30pm - Midnight
\$10 entry

FEATURING:

Val Halla
Karma - Psychedelic Stem Cells - Blues & Bits
Frau Blücher + Special Guests
Compacted by John Hein & John Bardsley

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE
Great Prizes
Proceeds to: Willey Reed family

Sandgate Bowls & RSL Clubs
Burnett & Keogh Street's Sandgate
Drinks @ Club prices
Full dinner menu at RSL from 5pm
Hot food at the Bowls club

Peter Stannard, who is one of our "Vase Insiders" this issue, alerted us to an event coming up this month. According to Peter, **John Hein** organised a "Bands of the 70's" gathering a few years ago at Crushers Leagues club (The old Brothers Rugby League Club at the Grange). Peter went on to say it was a huge success and John organised a subsequent one at the Pinkenba Hotel and then another at The Sandgate Hotel. These events had several prominent bands from the 70's reform such as "Karma" and "Blackwater". Peter reports: "They were fantastic nights and great entertainment." There is another one planned for Saturday November 25 (see notice at left). After hearing about it, VASE made the offer to provide equipment both for the rehearsal studios and as backline at the event. Come and see your old favourites playing through the equipment many of them used in the 70's.



Photo of KARMA playing a Saturday morning show in King George Square, Brisbane (1974)
L to R: Joe Harrison (Vocals), Mick Shaw (Guitar), John Griffin (Drums) & Martin Holden (Bass)

VIP VASE INSIDERS PROFILE

Here's an update on some of the folks appearing in old photos on the VASE website. Let us know if you see yourself and tell us what you are up to now. Here's what we heard from Peter Stannard and John Williamson recently.

Peter Stannard



That's me. The fellow beside me is Greg McConochie.

That's our singer Margaret Ducey (Now Bryant) and beside her is Shane Bryant.

Dear Carol,
Thank you for the receipt and your message about this photo. I had to take a screen shot of it to record the details.
The photograph was taken in King George Square on a Saturday morning. My best guess is that it is between 1973 and 1975 and most likely 1974.

Our booking agent, John Hein from Book a Band, used to put free concerts on in King George Square on a Saturday morning and I am guessing that there was a roster of his bands to perform there.

We must have been waiting to go on next and I am pretty sure that the VASE amp in the picture belongs to our lead guitarist, Shane Bryant, although it's only half his stack. Greg and I appear to be standing beside the base players 100 Watt Leonard Base Amp.

I don't know who the band on "stage" is but John Hein could tell you and he is still around.

I was the youngest member of our band "Transition" and if I am right about the date, I would have been 19 when this was taken.

The guy beside me, Greg McConochie, was our rhythm guitarist. Greg decided he wanted to try saxophone and within a short period was playing Alto, tenor, Soprano and baritone Sax as well as flute. He also played in the 4IP big band on brass so he improved really rapidly. It also meant we could do songs by Chicago like "Saturday in the Park" and "25 or 6 to 4"

We were a lesser light band starting at school and then doing the country circuit with our first job as 16 and 17 year olds in Nanango. We progressed to Gympie and Toowoomba 3 nights a week and worked quite a bit at Caloundra. As we got better we got more bookings in Brisbane so we played just about everywhere. Pacesetter, The Homestead, The Newnham, The Sunnybank, The Jindalee Hotels and so on. As a generalisation we certainly worked every week ranging from 1 to 6 nights and often Sunday mornings as well. They had guest artists in those days, so we backed people like, Robin Jolly, Normie Rowe, Gary Marcel (from the Deltones) and a lot of strippers if I remember rightly.

They were great days, as every pub and club and local parish church hall had live bands on every week so there was plenty of work and the opportunity to get better from constant playing. The money was also very good. My recollection is that I earned about \$80 a fortnight in the hand in my day job, but was getting \$125 a week playing 6 nights at the Jindalee Hotel. As my first house only cost \$22,000 you can see how much money that was. However, equipment was very expensive back then, with a DYNACHORD PA Head costing around \$1200 so probably close to \$25,000 in today's terms.

We split up when I was about 22 as people got married and had kids etc but Shane and the singer (Margaret) continued to play in various forms basically constantly ever since. I think at one stage they were the resident duo at the Courthouse Restaurant at Cleveland for years. I also went to the "Kim Walters Concerts" ball earlier this year and they played as a six piece under the name "Size Does matter"

The only person missing from the photo is our base player Graeme McConochie who is the brother of the guy beside me. (At a guess he was chatting up some woman)

Now we have all been pretty successful in life, and 60's and in my own case I retired at 53 and decided to take up guitar just for the enjoyment. (I was the drummer but it is an unsociable instrument) I started to get a bit bored after a couple of years so I did a workplace teaching qualification and starting marking assignments for an RTO when I was approached about doing a short term contract for 3 months which has extended out to 20 months so far. I went from doing very little to working six days a week including the marking so it inhibited my guitar practice a bit. Even so, I managed to get together with some other fellows to form a band "Highly Strung" with the aim of performing say a dozen times a year.

We managed to find an excellent drummer, base player and singer although our guitar work still needs improvement but is getting better. Indeed, if we are struggling we just get an accomplished guitar player to come and join us for the next job we have coming up.

Because of our ages and stage of life, what we lack in talent we make up for in equipment so we all have high end set ups with beautiful instruments and a top of the line Presonus PA. We rehearse Monday nights and more frequently when we have a gig coming up.

I recently bought a nice little Hayden Mojo Amp which is why I approached VASE about having a cabinet built. I only really need 2 X 12 inch but the 3 X 12 cabinet will be fine with the Greenbacks.

It can give you more information about what each of us is up to. For example, Graeme is an Executive at RACQ, Shane is a high end Jeweller and Greg is a builder as far as I am aware. I also think that I heard that Greg plays in a Big Band at the Gold Coast but I'm not certain about that.

Anyway, what are the chances of me catching the picture on your web site and recognising it?

Let me know whether I can be of any further assistance. Cheers . Peter Stannard

John Williamson

Thanks for the VASE NEWS - I did not know there was such a publication I suppose I could subscribe to it ?

My first proper built amp bought in 1963 was a VASE Bassman 80 with 2 speaker boxes and 4 x 12 inch MSPs in each box.

I had it built by Tony Troughton under his home at Kedron. It was an off white colour and I believe it was the first upright speaker boxes that he built.

Previously they were wider than higher but this was not easy to pick up and put into my car so I got him to build them the same dimensions only higher than wider. I have attached a couple of pictures of it. The handles were screw on ones which folded up and down and squashed the fingers if you weren't careful when you lifted it up.

After this it became the normal shape and most were built this way. I notice in the VASE NEWS that they want old pictures of VASE gear submitted - I suppose I should send a couple to them ?

Unfortunately when I decided to give up playing I sold the amp and my Fender Precision but I was back playing within 6 months and had to get a new amplifier. I bought another VASE Bassman second hand in 1974 and still have the head today but not the speaker box. The attached pictures - The Del-Rays (upper right) - the old converted wireless on the floor behind my feet was my bass amplifier !! The Tikis (below, left and middle) - My original white VASE Bassman and the VOX AC 30.

Also attached (right below) another photo of The 4 Beats at the Junior Primitiv 1964 with Kerry Buchanan, Daryl Ross and Drummer Barry Linnane (15 at the time) and me.

Till next time
John W (Williamson)



Kerry Buchanan Daryl Ross Barry Linnane Seb Williamson

For more information on 60's rock musicians check out this site: <http://primitivsounds.wordpress.com/2012/02/>

FEEDBACK

Greg Trennery bought his 60's Vase 2 x 12' cab' over for a rewire the other day and judging by the screws it was the first time the inside of the cab' had seen the light of day for over 40 years.

It has 2 x 12" 16 ohm drivers installed and they were wired in series (32ohm).

As his other cab in parallel (2 x 15" 4 ohm drivers wired in series (8 ohm) we thought it best to rewire it in parallel (8 ohm) to match the impedance

on his other cab giving a total impedance of 4 ohms when running both cab's.

Could you please ask your technical staff if we have done the right thing? (I'm pretty sure as a Tech' myself it's correct).

But we want to also want to know if anyone there has any idea what these drivers are?

I have included pic's of the drivers. They are 12" 16ohm and I have never seen anything like them before.

The only legible writing I could get off them was on the cone itself and it was "12K104"

Did Vase manufacture their own drivers back then or have they been replaced over the years? Very interesting looking drivers to say the least.

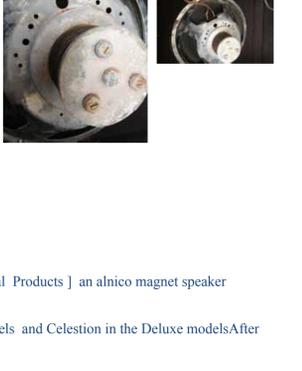
Regards, Brian Craven.

Hi Brian

Yes both cabinets should be 8 ohm each The 12inch speakers in the photos are MSP s [Manufacturers Special Products] an alnico magnet speaker used in the 60s in Australia

Vase never did manufacture their own speakers In the early days vase used MSP speakers in their standard models and Celestion in the Deluxe models After the demise of MSP Vase used ETONE speakers [Branded VASE]

HARRY



Mason Rack Band at Curtis Island



Mason Rack Band at Curtis Island

I was one of the lucky few who caught the Mason Rack Band at their Curtis Island gig on Saturday 15th September. The sound from those Vase amps was just incredible! The band really did you guys proud by smashing out a gig that tore the roof clean off our wet mess. Troubled by late gear arrival, the lads just unloaded the van, plugged in and hammered the joint. (No warm up, no soundcheck, no fuss... just filthy Australian Blues) Your company has a great product and the perfect representatives in these awesome and very professional musicians. I'd also like to see Dave Hole play your product. Thanks guys... Yours sincerely, Stuart (stewy) Johnson

"Troubled by late gear arrival, the lads just unloaded the van, plugged in and hammered the joint. (No warm up, no soundcheck, no fuss... just filthy Australian Blues)"

Hi, Played in Brisbane bands in the 60s. Purchased a Vase 60w trendsetter in 1970 (with tremelo?). Loved that amp. Are you making this model again? Thanks Glenn"

Yes, Glenn...the Trendsetter 60 Deluxe was the model that we chose to reissue in a faithful reproduction still hand wired here in Brisbane to the original specifications and circuit.

You can Vibrate (as you more correctly called tremelo) and we have included a footswitch to switch on this function in addition to the front panel knob switch function..

It has a View the Trendsetter 60 Deluxe on the VASE website here: <http://www.vase.com.au/detail.php?id=65>

You can even select the finishes that you want here: <http://www.vase.com.au/detail.php?id=65>

The VASE 4 Trendsetter 60 Deluxe head with a 3 x 12" cab all supplied with road cases has a RRP of \$2,995.

On the 4 x 12" cab is also available and the model can also be supplied without road cases if preferred.

Glenn, if you have any photos or stories of your days playing in bands in the 60's we would love it if you could share them with us for possible publication in our newsletter.

Let me know if I can assist further as only too happy to help. Cheers, Noel Bourne

VASE in Social Media

Paul Holland is heavily involved in assisting business and enterprise to prepare for the challenges of the information economy by adopting and using new social technologies. This has included providing advice and education in the use of Online Blogging and micro-blogging environments and media sharing tools and sites. This month he's also donating his support (and his upper lip) to the "Movember" movement. We are happy to have him as VASE's Social Media contributor.



Hi all. We continue receiving some great pics and stories about the Brisbane Music scene in the 60s, 70s and 80s. Lots of good VASE references from these times as well. Please keep that coming in.

With the take up of our new gear there should be a more opportunities to go VASE spotting around Brisbane and surrounds. If you're at a show of any type and see some VASE gear there (old or new) please take some shots on the phone, tablet or camera (quality is not really an issue) and send them through or share them through Facebook. Same goes for videos.

With the increasing number of smartphones and tablets out there we should have eyes and ears everywhere to continue telling the VASE story.

Our big news is the redevelopment and re-launch of our main website. I'll be posting the link to that on the Facebook page after it's been through final checking.

Don't forget, we're able to scan any old slides or negatives as well and return the originals to you. Just contact me at hollando@bigpond.net.au or send them to:

Paul Holland
PO Box 2612
Chermside Centre, Q 4032

I'll send the pics and return to you. I'll also email you digital copies.

As I mention each month, we're still looking for your stories past and present that involve VASE amps.

Don't forget the VASE YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/vaseamp>

We'd like to feature your vids as well. Contact us about that.

The VASE Facebook page is: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/VASE/340145740765> Follow us on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/HI/vaseamps>

The VASE YouTube Channel is at <http://www.youtube.com/user/vaseamp> Let us know your thoughts direct on FB and Twitter or at info@vase.com.au

Cheers, Paul

Well, that does it for this month. Good catching up with all of you. Keep in touch.

All the Best,

Carol and the Crew at VASE

