

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to a New Year! For us at VASE, a new year brings resolutions and new energy to get on with our business of getting VASE amplification out into the world.

Being a boutique, handmade item, VASE Amplifiers require a bit of patience to own. Every bit of the work that goes into these is done here in Australia, one by one.

That said, we would like to get a bit faster in our delivery to those who are eager to own these beautiful amps so we are doing our best to facilitate this. The following steps are being taken:

- A new dedicated assembly room is being configured here at the workshop. (With a viewing area to watch assembly).
- Extra hands will be brought on deck to pitch in when necessary.
- The CNC machine has undergone a total revamp to ensure the interruption that occurred last year doesn't recur!
- Amps will be available for play at sites in addition to our showroom (more information to follow soon).
- VASE will again travel to the Melbourne Guitar Show on the 6th and 7th of August 2016.

Auld Lang Syne



Mike Anderson, drummer in Facin' the Crowd, sent some pictures and news of a recent reunion of Melbourne musicians. The group met for a 7 1/2 hour "lunch" at the College Lawn Hotel in Prahan. Here's his wrap up on the event:

Top left, picture #1 shows:
Adrian Scott : Keyboards (& everything else), founding member of Air Supply, went on to Musical Director for Kylie Minogue for 9 years, toured USA with Little River Band, Studio Musician for everyone, Project Development for Apple computers & systems, Consultant for Roland Corp. Japan.
Andrew McKaige: Actor/Musician/Singer/Songwriter. Founder of country band "Fine Line", he was placed second for best song Aust Songwriters Assoc. As an actor has had numerous roles in many "soaps"...The Sullivans, Cop Shop, Skyways, Sons & Daughters, Prisoner etc etc.
Nigel Thompson: Founding member of Melb country rock band "Bluestone"...great bass player & vocalist...has his own business now based in Brisbane "Thompson Executive"...if you need one of those give him a call...lol!!!! ME!!!!...on the end....all "Vased Out"

Picture #2 is of **Wendy Stapleton** & myself with **Brian Mannix** (Cannery X Men) in the foreground & **John Grant** (great keyboards). Wendy & I worked together in her 4 piece band '77 - '78 she then had some success with "Wendy & the Rocketts" in the early 80's...she is the ultimate professional and a wonderful person. During the '70's she carved her career out of jingle work plus live band work. She does a fabulous Dusty Springfield tribute and continues to do live performances around Melb. with husband Paul Norton & Michal Christiano in a trio format....

Picture #3 Brian Cadd & I

Picture #4 is of **Geoff Cox** and myself...I've known him since 1968 and was my first "drum teacher"...he told me to nick off when I started to pinch his gigs in 1970ish...ha ha!! Geoff is a Melbourne legend in his mind...lol...BUT has a great resume....starting with "Uptight Fifth Hour"...a TV show backing band, he moved on to "Brian Cadd & the Bootleg Band", "Avalanche", "Little River Band", where he filled for Derek Pellici on a USA tour in 1977/78. He is currently working with Coleen Hewett as well as doing some TV work...another series of "Coxy's Big Break", which is a typical lifestyle programme. He also makes a dollar out of voice overs for advertising agencies based Aust wide....in the shot, that's **Adrian Scott** in the back

I grew up with all these lunatic's in Melb. and we have kept in touch over the years, so we still know each other's moves, even if not all fabulous...ha ha!!!!

The background shot is the group from lunch in Prahan...it seems to be a little out of focus... The elderly gentleman front row, grey jacket is **Bill Armstrong** who is the founding owner of Armstrong Studios in South Melbourne, the day of the lunch celebrated 50 years since he first opened the doors...quite a milestone. The bald gentleman second row to the right of Cadd & behind Lorraine is **Ernie Rose**...record producer extraordinaire...a countless list of albums to his credit.

Love my work....Mike xx

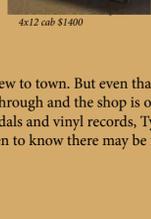
Musicians' Utopia!



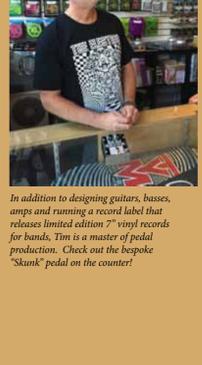
Tim Brennan of Tym Guitars in front of his Winn Lane shop in Fortitude Valley



VASE Trendsetter 40 with matching 2x12 cab \$1600



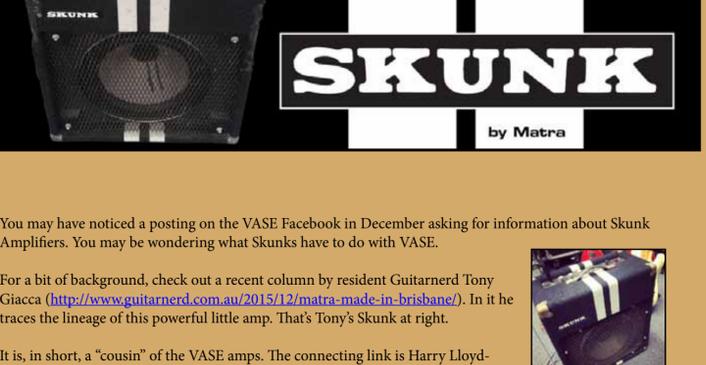
4x12 cab \$1400



In addition to designing guitars, buses, amps and running a record label that releases limited edition 7" vinyl records for bands, Tim is a master of pedal production. Check out the bespoke "Skunk" pedal on the counter!

If you haven't discovered Tym Guitars, you must be new to town. But even that's no excuse, he's pretty much known all over. Touring bands drop by on their way through and the shop is open six days a week (Tuesday through Sunday). In addition to the guitars, amps, pedals and vinyl records, Tym still has some vintage VASE pieces for sale. We've pictured two of them but happen to know there may be more if you talk to Tim. Check out his shop [here](#).

Skunk Sightings?



You may have noticed a posting on the VASE Facebook in December asking for information about Skunk Amplifiers. You may be wondering what Skunks have to do with VASE.

For a bit of background, check out a recent column by resident Guitarnerd Tony Giacca (<http://www.guitarnerd.com.au/2015/12/matra-made-in-brisbane/>). In it he traces the lineage of this powerful little amp. That's Tony's Skunk at right.

It is, in short, a "cousin" of the VASE amps. The connecting link is Harry Lloyd-Williams who way back when did some box building for VASE, then started his own company (Matra). When Tony Troughton sold VASE to Kevin and Alan Soper, VASE and Matra together came out with a Skunk Coyote (the Coyote had been a VASE Trojan with Tony Troughton developing solid state preamps of which the Skunk Circuit is a version.)

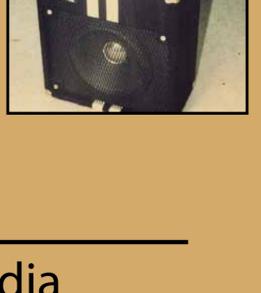
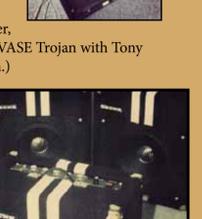
Only about 100 of these were made. The picture at right is of some of them. Folks who plugged in were pleasantly surprised at the 30 watts of awesome distortion that ensued.

We are trying to locate any remaining skunks. If you have or know of one, send us a picture and a story about how you came by it.

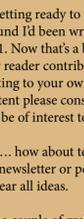


Ron Delbridge plugged the Fender Stratocaster which had been used in the original building and testing of the first Skunk into the Granddial of them all, serial number 00001.

Have a listen here, or even better, call into VASE with YOUR favourite guitar and plug it in!



VASE in Social Media



Creativity Well Managing Director and Principal Consultant, Paul Holland, has had significant experience in the private and public sectors as an executive manager, company director, educator, business coach, media producer, and interaction designer. He is a musician, VASE Board Member, past and present VASE owner and keeps us up to date on Social Media.

So what did Santa bring? Well it was really an outsourced job so St Nick and the Elves can't claim full responsibility. Actually Craig Claxton at Guitar Brothers had more to do with the procurement process than Santa. An Epiphone Casino now joins my collection. Did anyone else score well? Pics please.

Well, how did you fare over Christmas? Did that old berry-guzzling bloke with the white beard bring you anything useful?

In getting ready to write this I went back through my earlier columns looking for something. I had to check twice when I found I'd been writing the VASE in Social Media part of the newsletter for 4 and half years. The first column was in July 2011. Now that's a bit scary and it also signals that maybe it's time for a change in format or approach. Our reader contributions to our channels haven't really increased as I thought they might - probably because you're posting to your own pages. If you are on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest etc. and you have some VASE related content please consider reposting or sharing with us here. Not everything has to have a VASE logo in it. If you think it will be of interest to the VASE family then offer it up.

So... how about telling us what else you'd like to see in this part of the newsletter or perhaps what should replace this column. I'm keen to hear all ideas.

Just a couple of grabs from FB in December. A good friend of mine, Michael, is now the proud owner of a Tonester 18 and took a pic of his travelling kit when heading off to a show recently. I had to share it. Shows you can travel light and still have everything you need.

Carol introduced us to the concept of a 'surfeit' of skunks (Google it). We're searching for the great little Matra Skunk amps that were produced in the 70s by our own Harry Lloyd Williams. Only about 100 were made and we know some must be out there lurking in darkened rooms and sheds across this wide brown land.

Tony Giacca kindly supplied the Wanted Poster for this FB page. He has a great write up of them on his Guitarnerd website - <http://www.guitarnerd.com.au/2015/12/matra-made-in-brisbane/>. Seriously if you see (or smell) one of these babies nearby let us know.

Keep your contributions coming in. I always put in a reminder that we can scan old slides and negatives if you have them. They will be returned along with digital copies for your archives. Have a rummage around and see what you can find. Polaroids were big in the 70s. There must be thousands of those instant snaps around as well.

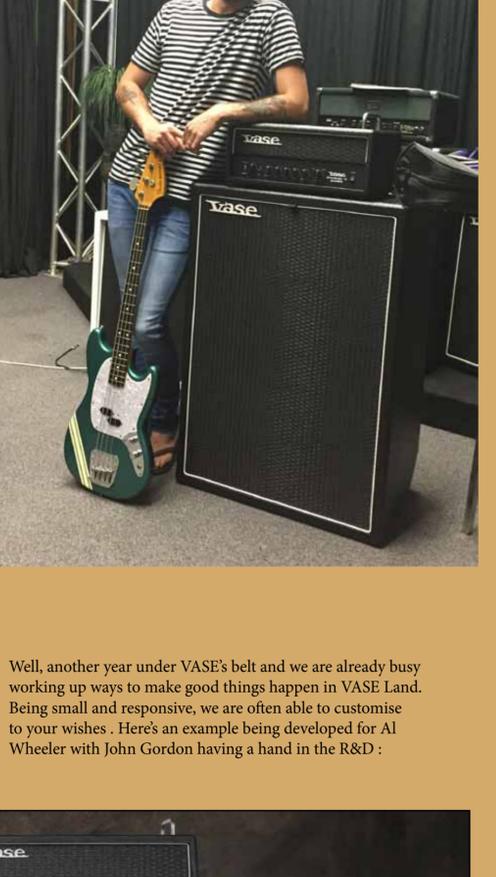
Just contact me at hollandp@bigpond.net.au or send them to:
 Paul Holland
 PO Box 2612
 Cherside Centre, Q 4032

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

The VASE Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/VASEAMPS>
 Check out our VASE TV channel on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/vasetvau/>
 Follow us on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/v1/vaseamps>
 Our new Instagram presence: <http://instagram.com/vaseamps>
 And now on Pinterest as well: <http://www.pinterest.com/VASEAMPS/>
 For those from Planet Google, find us on Google+ at: <https://plus.google.com/+VaseAu/posts>
 Let us know your thoughts direct on any of these channels or at info@vase.com.au

Corey Herekiuha VASE INSIDER PROFILE

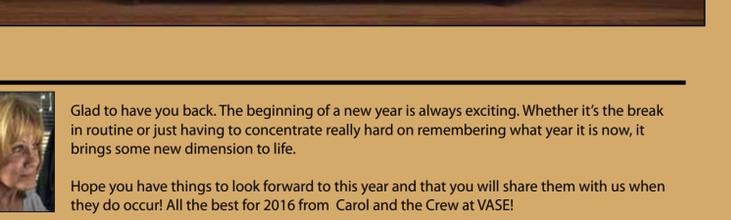
Brisbane musician Corey Herekiuha had a good year in 2015. He married sweetheart Tegan in May, became Operations Manager at The Brightside, stayed busy playing in the many bands of which he is a member (Teen Sensations, Velociraptor and Tiny Migrants to drop a few names) then for his birthday in November received a beautiful new bass guitar from his bride then topped it all off with a VASE Dynabass 1K and 610 Cab in December!



Click on the links above to find out more about Corey and where you can catch up with him.

And finally...

Well, another year under VASE's belt and we are already busy working up ways to make good things happen in VASE Land. Being small and responsive, we are often able to customise to your wishes. Here's an example being developed for Al Wheeler with John Gordon having a hand in the R&D:



Glad to have you back. The beginning of a new year is always exciting. Whether it's the break in routine or just having to concentrate really hard on remembering what year it is now, it brings some new dimension to life.

Hope you have things to look forward to this year and that you will share them with us when they do occur! All the best for 2016 from Carol and the Crew at VASE!