VASE NEWSLETTER

VASE MADE IN BRISBANE

February 2016

There's no age limit on VASE! VASE owners and players criss-cross the generations. This month we catch up with a young group about to release their first EP and touch bases with a couple of Australian musicians who are making names for themselves in Europe. There are pictures of some long term VASE users in bands from the past. Some interesting Vintage VASE equipment comes by for a visit and Noel does his first rate job of dealing with tech questions.

EP Release

VASE's introduction to Ipswich band Fire and Whistle Theory came through bass player *Mitchell Rosenthal* who recently acquired a Dynabass 1K Classic and 4 x 10 Cabinet.

Mitchell and other members: *Tom Greenwood* [lead vocals] *Keith Vogel* [lead guitar] *Jordan Locke* [rhythm guitar] and *Tom Pugh* [drums], will be playing at the New Globe Theatre through VASE gear on Saturday February 6th.

If you haven't heard them yet, maybe their bio will whet your appetite:

"With their own signature sound it's hard to pinpoint exactly who Fire and Whistle Theory sound like. Not that it matters, because this upcoming band have set their sights on making new original music and they've been making an impact doing just that.

While listening to Fire and Whistle Theory you'll be taken on a journey of the real moments that life beholds. These songwriters know how to write songs that are honest and not always pretty. Tom's vocals deliver every song in a crispness that allows the lyrics to seep into the mind. The clear notes and melodic harmonies combine with Keith's quiet focus on creating lasting effects and tight lead breaks. Mitch directs the band with control as his drumming style sets the pace while newcomer Mitchell 'Rosey' Rosenthal brings solid bass to the engine room, while Jordan, on rhythm guitar, is also known to have an alter ego as a hard-hitting Bad Mother F#@ker harmonica player."

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pulse

YOUR GUIDE TO A GREAT NIGHT OUT

RELEASE: Fire and Whistle Theory band members (clockwise from left) Tom Pugh, Mitchell Rosenthal, Jordan Locke, Keith Vogel, Tom Greenwood.

First EP launch

FANS will have to get in quick to see Ipswich-born band Fire and Whistle Theory launch their first EP on February 6.

The band, made up mostly of ex St Edmund's students, will launch their EP Golden Guns in a special show at Brisbane's New Globe Theatre.

Recording the five-song EP in between gigs took the majority of 2015, bass guitarist Mitchell Rosenthal said.

The band worked with G.Bass Studios to record the EP and have named it after their thumping, bluesy title track Golden Guns.

Mitchell said the band would have liked to launch their EP in Ipswich but decided to go for a larger venue in Brisbane to fit in as many fans as they could for the special show.

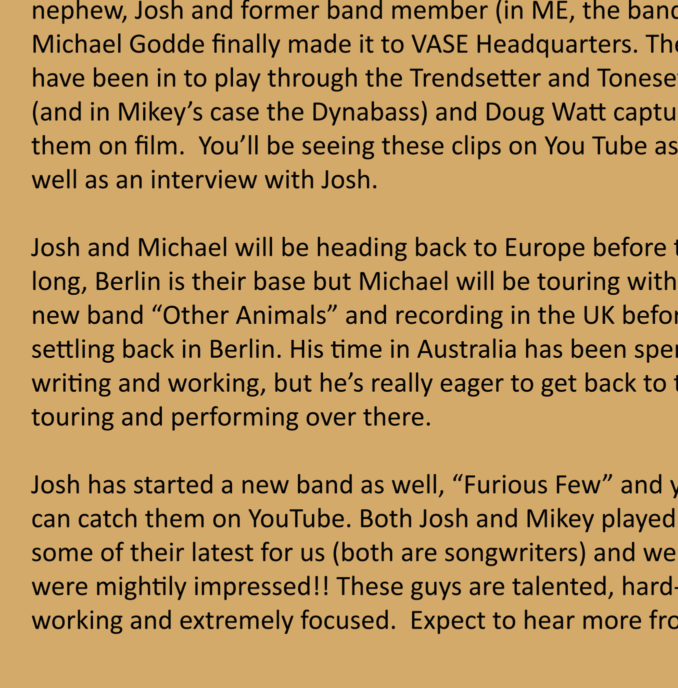
"It's been a long time coming," he said.

He said the launch, which will also feature Ipswich favourites Allurer as a guest, was set to sell out before the night.

Brisbane folk band Counterfeit Umbrellas and roots duo Tom and Becc will also help open the February 6 show.

Search for Fire and Whistle Theory on Facebook or oztix.com.au to grab tickets.

Catching Up With A Pen Pal



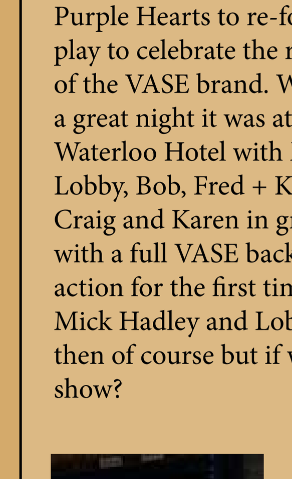
"Pen Pals"originated with "snail mail": someone you got to know through letters. **Josh Murphy**, an Australian Musician from Ballarat has been a "pen pal" of VASE's since he contacted us in late 2010.
Even though he was a young fellow, in his early 20's, he had been using an original Trendsetter 60 for years and wanted to try out a new model. At that point, the only place to do that was in Brisbane. We didn't get together with Josh at that time, but he didn't lose touch.
Following a move to Europe Josh began making a name for himself on the live music scene. His trusty Trendsetter was left behind as she was "getting on in years". She was sadly missed and VASE decided to help Josh regain the "warmth and clarity" he got from his VASE and helped him acquire a new rig. Josh and his rig were featured in previous VASE Newsletters, in July 2013 and November and December 2013.

Back in Australia to make the acquaintance of his new nephew, Josh and former band member (in ME, the band) Michael Godde finally made it to VASE Headquarters. They have been in to play through the Trendsetter and Tonesetter (and in Mikey's case the Dynabass) and Doug Watt captured them on film. You'll be seeing these clips on You Tube as well as an interview with Josh.

Josh and Michael will be heading back to Europe before too long, Berlin is their base but Michael will be touring with his new band "Other Animals" and recording in the UK before settling back in Berlin. His time in Australia has been spent writing and working, but he's really eager to get back to the touring and performing over there.

Josh has started a new band as well, "Furious Few" and you can catch them on YouTube. Both Josh and Mikey played some of their latest for us (both are songwriters) and we were mightily impressed!! These guys are talented, hard-working and extremely focused. Expect to hear more from them!

Michael Godde and Josh Murphy

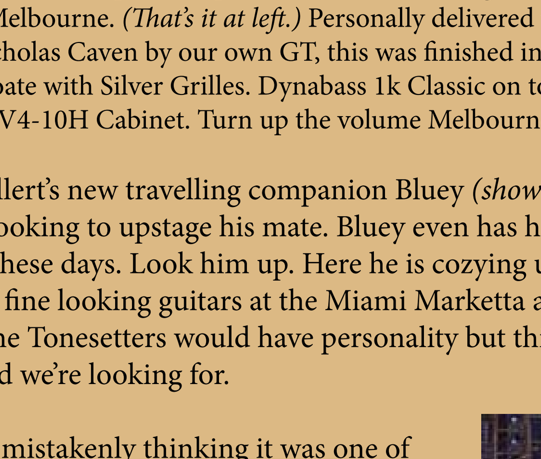


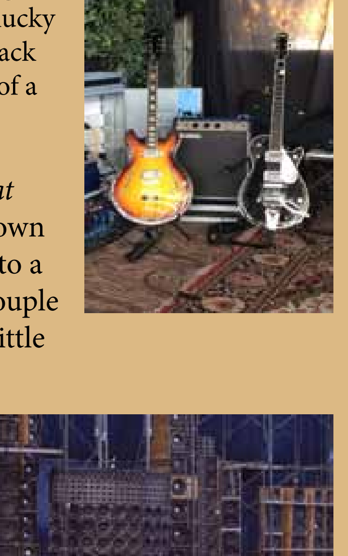
VASE in Social Media

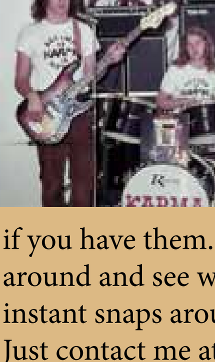
Creativity Well Managing Director and Principal Consultant, Paul Holland, has had significant experience in the private and public sectors as an executive manager, company director, educator, business coach, media producer, and interaction designer. He is a musician, VASE Board Member, past and present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

Keeping it simple this month – just make some noise. I think I'm going troppo in the heat. Gibson Firebird and TSDX60.

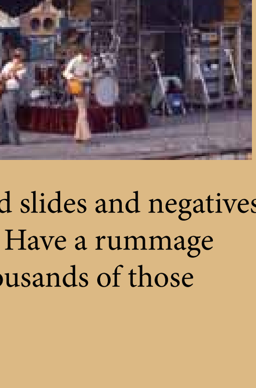
Well, the year is warming up – literally, and so we move into 2016 properly. Hard to believe it is going on to 10 years ago that we invited the Purple Hearts to re-form and play to celebrate the relaunch of the VASE brand. What a great night it was at the Waterloo Hotel with Mick, Lobby, Bob, Fred + Keith, Craig and Karen in great form with a full VASE backline in action for the first time in about 40 years.
Mick Hadley and Lobby Loyde – Legends. Gone but not forgotten. No Facebook then of course but if we'd had it these pics would have been there. Were you at the show?



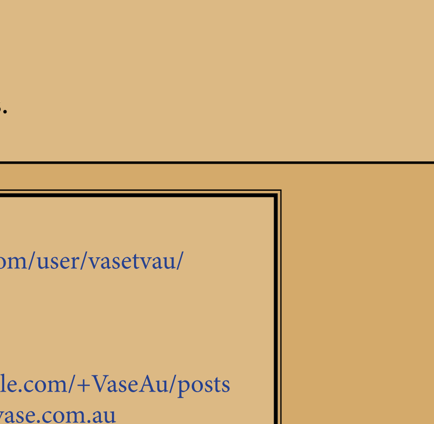




Early last month we posted a pic of a beautiful bass rig heading down to Melbourne. *(That's it at left.)* Personally delivered to lucky owner Nicholas Caven by our own GT, this was finished in Black AcoustiCoate with Silver Grilles. Dynabass 1k Classic on top of a matching V4-10H Cabinet. Turn up the volume Melbourne.



Butch Bellert's new travelling companion Bluey *(shown at right)* is looking to upstage his mate. Bluey even has his own FB page these days. Look him up. Here he is cozying up to a couple of fine looking guitars at the Miami Marketta a couple of weeks back. We thought the Tonesetters would have personality but this little one does seem to be the droid we're looking for.



We posted this pic *(at right)* mistakenly thinking it was one of Harry's old projects. Turns out it is the Grateful Dead … or should that be Grateful Deaf?

A great old pic from the vaults courtesy of Mike Shaw, *at left.* Karma showing they had (and still have) taste in amps as well as style.

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
Chermside 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 You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/user/vasetvau/
Follow us on Twitter at: http://twitter.com/#!/vaseamps
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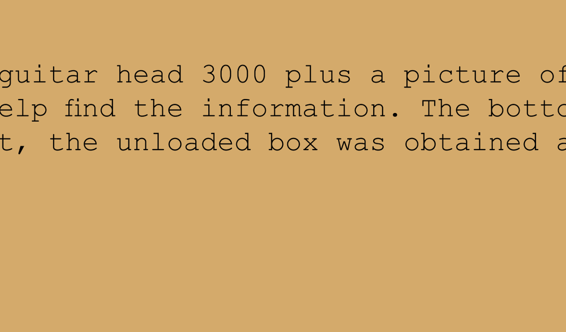
For those from Planet Google, find us on Google+ at: https://plus.google.com/+VaseAu/posts
Let us know your thoughts direct on any of these channels or at info@vase.com.au

FEEDBACK



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Name:       Kris
Subject:    Foot Pedal for Vase
            Guitar Head 3000
Message:
Morning, Just wondering if in your boxes of bits and pieces you would happen to have a foot Pedal for switching a Vase 3000 (solid state). My Head has a 5 pin round socket for the plug off the foot Pedal. I put a post on Guitargear forum under a Matra Amps topic I came across while searching for this elusive foot pedal. If not I was wondering if by some chance there would be a wiring diagram so could hopefully convert a pedal to do the switching.
Cheers, Kris

Hi Carol
Find attached photos of the Vase guitar head 3000 plus a picture of the 2 quad boxes. Hopefully this will help find the information. The bottom Quad and the head were bought as a unit, the unloaded box was obtained about 6 odd years ago.
Cheers,
Kris
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Hi Kris,
Thank you for the photos. I don't know if you are aware but VASE Amplifiers went out of business around 40 years ago and we resurrected the company about 6 years back, and little gems like yours keep popping up!!

There was a period back then when Matra, our company, were making the cabinets for VASE and they (VASE) were just manufacturing the electronics. The main Matra colour was blue (Frontrunner fabric).

We would dearly love to have a look at your head, if you would be kind enough to send it to us, we will organise freight pick up and return at our cost.

In return, we will manufacture a switch pedal for you at no cost.

Just read the Guitargear post and realised you have met my husband Harry (AT). Any chance of dropping in again? Seems it's been about 38 years between visits!

Please let us know, we can have this taken care of with a total week turn around.

Look forward to hearing from you,
Carol

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Afternoon Carol,
What I was thinking is sending the Head down on our local carrier who goes every Sunday to catch the Brisbane markets Monday morning. I will call by in June (for that coffee and a chat) when I venture down to Brisvagas.
Cheers, Kris

Hi Carol and Harry
Just wondering did the Head turn up alright.
Cheers
Kris
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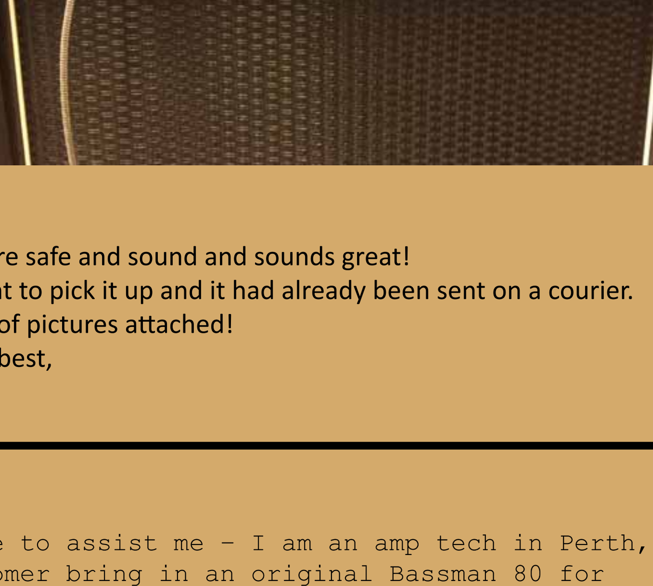

Hi Kris,
Yes, here safe and sound and sounds great!
We went to pick it up and it had already been sent on a courier.
Couple of pictures attached!
All the best,
Carol

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Hi Guys,
 I have been told that you may be able to assist me - I am an amp tech in Perth, Western Australia and have had a customer bring in an original Bassman 80 for restoration.  I was told that you guys may be able to provide a schematic for this model?  If not, I can trace out most of the circuit, given time, but a schematic would be a massive labour saver.  It has no OT at the moment, either, so any suggestions as to a suitable replacement would be greatly received.  (I believe it was running a pair of KT88's into a 4 ohm load.)
Many thanks,
Dave Fyffe
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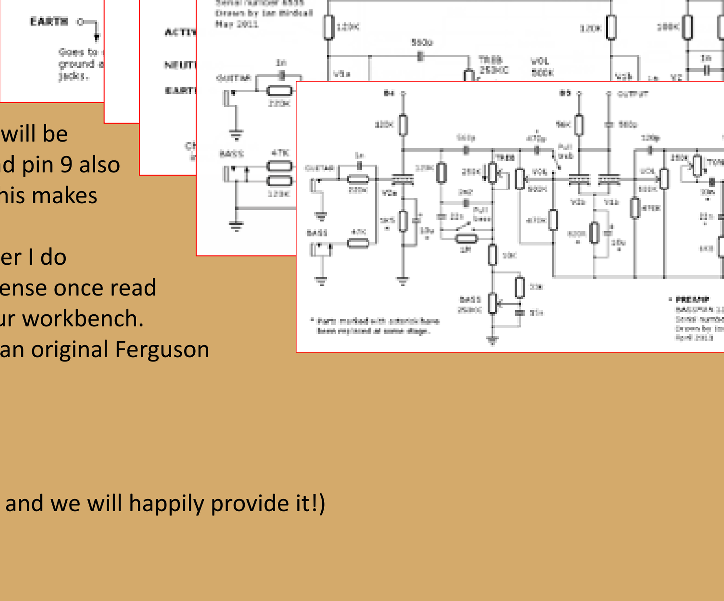
Hi David,
I will check my off site files for a Bassman 80 schematic and get back to you tomorrow.
I know I do have a Bassman 120 schematic which has a very similar circuit with the difference being the output stage drive circuit and 4 output valves instead of 2.
In respect to the transformer, all VASE amps rated from 60 watts to 120 watts used the same transformer which was a medium fidelity Ferguson OPM13A.
The OPM13A had a "nominal" power rating of 55 watts but obviously was proven to handle up to the 120 watts in guitar use as we see very few failed output transformers.
The OPM13A was 3500 ohms P/P with taps at 2, 3.7, 8 and 15 ohms.
You are most likely correct that the Bassman 80 used the 4 (3.7) ohm tap.
Whilst the OPM13A was designed for upright mounting with bell covers each side, VASE removed one bell cover and installed it in a laydown through chassis manner…I imagine this provided additional heatsinking through the contact with chassis although the primary reason was for a lower profile head shell.
We reverse engineered the OPM13A transformer and we use them in the Trendsetter 60 Deluxe and Overdrive models however all current new transformer stock is committed to production.
We do have a stock of original VASE amplifiers from very good condition and some needing more attention than others….I will check to see if there is an original OPM13A transformer that we may be willing to sell and will let you know in the next day or so.
I would think that there would be many transformer suppliers that would have laydown, through chassis, output transformers to reasonably match the specifications as detailed above.
Cheers,
Noel Bourne

Hi Dave,
Don't have a Bassman 80 schematic however I have attached Bassman 120 and Dynabass.
I would expect the Bassman 80 to have the same preamp and biasing arrangement as the Bassman 120.
The Bassman 80 may have a power amp stage like the Dynabass.
As mentioned in last email the Bassman 120 has a 12AX7 phase splitter and then a 6CG7 drive for output stage.
If you check the heater wiring on the valve base near the output valves if it wired just pins 4 and 5 it will be for the 6CG7 whilst if pins 4 & 5 are tied together and pin 9 also used for heater wiring than it will be 12AX7…hope this makes sense to you.
Sorry I don't have the Bassman 80 schematic however I do think the attached schematics will assist and make sense once read in conjunction whilst looking at the Bassman 80 on your workbench.
I haven't yet got to our store to check availability of an original Ferguson OPM13A but should know by tomorrow.
Cheers,
Noel



(If you are in need of similar information, contact us and we will happily provide it!)

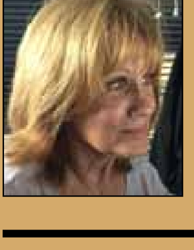
And Finally...

Thanks to **Peter Lever** for the photo at left.

This is a band of which he was a member (Silver Reign). He identifies his cohorts:

" In the tophat is Bernie Flynn, in the striped trousers, Herman Bakker.

Geoff Whiteman has the drumstick, Terry Rowling with his chin on his knee and Peter in his words 'Meek kin love to his 335'.



Another month under our belts! Two thousand sixteen is looking to be a good year! Good things are happening to the folks who are using VASE and when they are happy, we are happy! We feel so privileged to be a part of their experiences and always try to be as supportive and helpful as possible. Keep in touch and let us know what's going on with you.

Till next month,
Carol

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