



It has been a shorter time between newsletters this time due to the break we take for the holidays. As usual, we have had visitors dropping in and having a visit and a play. Some of it was captured on VASE video this time, some links below. Remember to get your orders in for the 'Tonesetter 18 Combo or Head. And don't forget to keep up with us on Facebook and Pinterest between newsletters!

## Tonesetter 18 Ready for Release

Get your order in!



Whether it is on your Christmas List or your New Year's Resolution List, it's time to put your name on the list for the Tonesetter 18! That's the Combo pictured under the tree. A separate head is also available (pictured below).

Victory Audiophonic Sound Equipment is ready to launch its third major product since coming back into business.

The **first** release was the **VASE Trendsetter 60 Deluxe**. The intention and outcome was to replicate as closely as possible the extraordinarily successful and popular first made in the early 60s.

The **VASE News from September 2011** tells the whole story and explains the similarities and differences between the original and current model production.

The **second** exciting release was the **VASE Dynabass 1K Classic**. This has proved to be very popular and received glowing reviews from all users.

There's an article about the Dynabass in the [December VASE News, 2011](#).

**And now** the **Tonesetter 18** is ready for the market. The intention behind this latest amp was to deliver an amp with the highest possible build-quality and component-quality with the **accent on pure tone**. By all reports thus far, we have succeeded!

When You're Ready to Play....  
The Tonesetter 18s are ready to go and are only waiting for you to let us know what finishes you would like. Choose between traditional or alternate finishes. Vinyl colours available to you include Black Stump, Great White, Full Cream or True Blue and for the fabric colour on the front of the amplifier head your choices are Black, Silver, Vintage or Heritage.



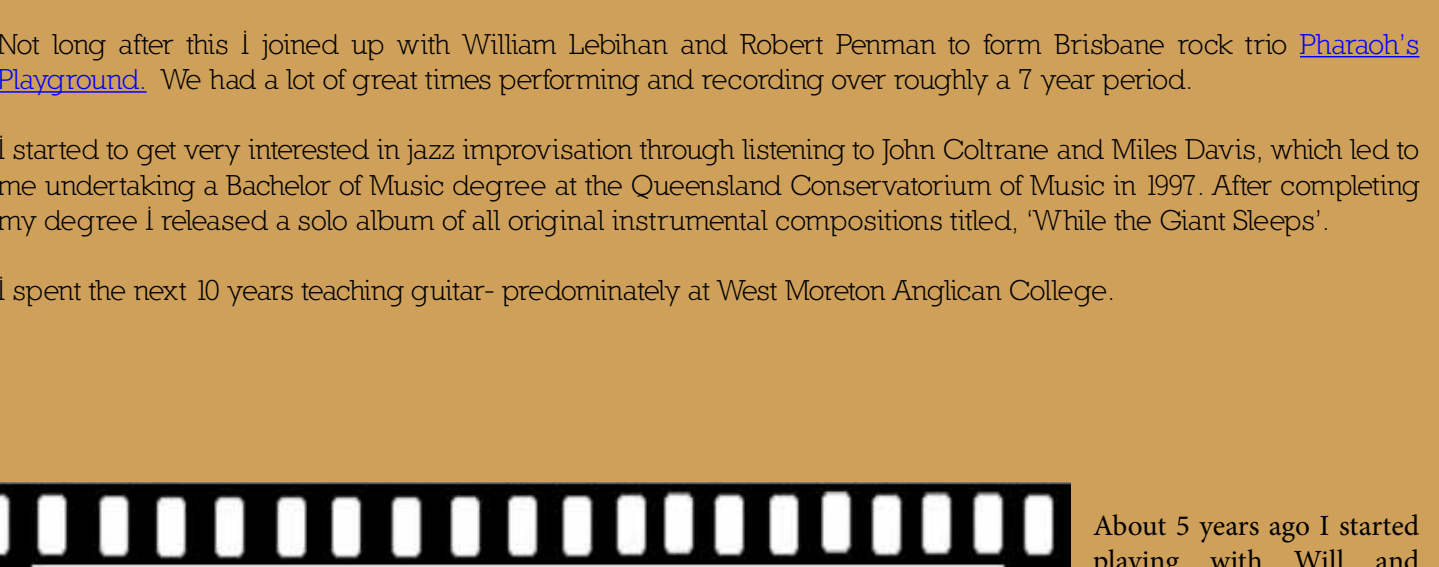
To help you visualise how your amplifier head will look you can make your colour choices on our interactive colour selector on the Vase website by clicking on the "FINISH OPTIONS" tab [here](#): (they are the same finish options as for the new Tonesetter 18) Let us know what you decide.... As mentioned in last month's NEWS, The Combo is going to sell for \$1795 and the separate head \$1495. Deposits of 50% will be accepted to get your order started and delivery will be approximately 12 weeks. First in, first served!!

*VASE head 18w head & combo colours*

Matt Mikkelsen of the Sunshine Coast came by VASE Headquarters recently. Play the video and read Matt's story below.

## VIP

VASE INSIDERS PROFILE



I started playing guitar when I was 12 years old. I had lessons from a great player/teacher, Paul Suska, for a couple of years in Gladstone where I grew up. Paul really encouraged me to play with other musicians as much as possible.

I moved to Brisbane after completing high school and won the 1991 Rebel Yell national guitar challenge as an 18 year old. My main guitar influences at this time were Stevie Ray Vaughan and Jimi Hendrix. The highlight, among the many prizes, was traveling to Los Angeles to study at the GIT (Guitar Institute of Technology) for five weeks.

Not long after this I joined up with William Lebihan and Robert Penman to form Brisbane rock trio [Pharaoh's Playground](#). We had a lot of great times performing and recording over roughly a 7 year period.

I started to get very interested in jazz improvisation through listening to John Coltrane and Miles Davis, which led to me undertaking a Bachelor of Music degree at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 1997. After completing my degree I released a solo album of all original instrumental compositions titled, 'While the Giant Sleeps'.

I spent the next 10 years teaching guitar- predominately at West Moreton Anglican College.

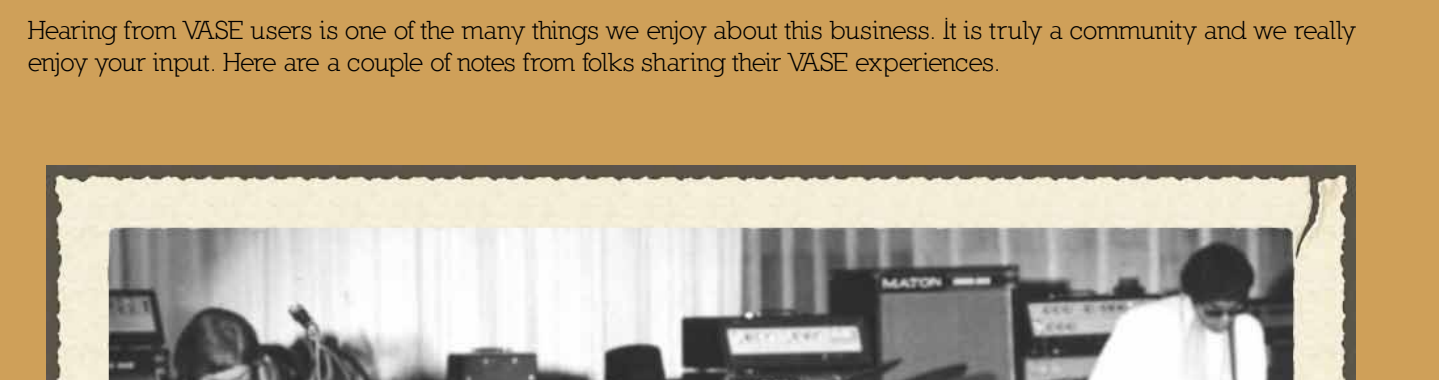
About 5 years ago I started playing with Will and Rob again as Pharaoh's Playground. In that time we have released two albums of all original material. The latest being, 'Three Days in the Belly of a Whale'- recorded mostly live in three days on a vintage Neve desk straight to tape with no computers in sight. (Pharaoh's Playground band members William Lebihan - Lead Vocals and Bass Guitar Robert Penman - Vocals and Drums and Matthew Mikkelsen - Guitars)

As a guitar player I am very dependent upon tone and I love the sound and feel of tube amplifiers. A great tube amp gives the listener all of the finer details of a player's approach and touch. They are responsive and dynamic and when pushed they have the warm, musical overdrive that many players crave.

The new Vase amps display these qualities in abundance and it is great to see that this Brisbane icon is back and sounding better than ever.

I now live on the Sunshine Coast with my wife, Ondrea and our 8 year old son 'Taj'. I run a private guitar teaching business- Bli Bli Blues Guitar Studio and continue to write, record and perform original music.

Matt Mikkelsen



**B Pharaoh's Playground: 3 Days In The Belly of a Whale (album launch)**

Hearing from VASE users is one of the many things we enjoy about this business. It is truly a community and we really enjoy your input. Here are a couple of notes from folks sharing their VASE experiences.



Hi All,

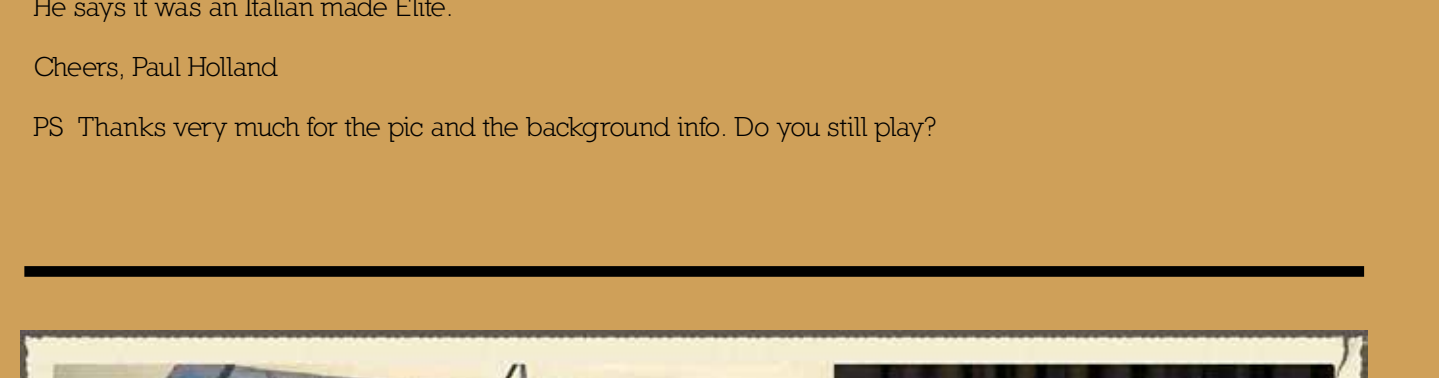
Enjoy your website and newsletter. Re attached pic - That's our band Revolution playing at Festival Hall in the 1968 Hoadley's Battle of the Sounds. We came 4th. Glenn Cardier on guitar, Richard Wilson on drums, me on bass. Playing through Maton amps, and Craig Woodhead did the sound. He made Overeem amps in Sheriff St Milton.

I bought a Vase 80W bass amp in 68. Glen bought a 60W white Vase with an onboard tape echo in 67.

I'm hoping someone at Vase can help me identify the make of my left-handed bass guitar? I can't remember. I bought it at Ford's Music at W'Gabbia in 68. It was lovely 335 shape, red with white binding.

Regards,  
Ross Hutchings  
Mt Crosby Bne.

Hi Ross  
Just checked with Mal Stevens who worked at Fords in the 60s. He may have even sold you the guitar.  
He says it was an Italian made Elite.  
Cheers, Paul Holland  
PS Thanks very much for the pic and the background info. Do you still play?



Gday folks  
I am now the proud and very happy owner of one of your TT15 combos. Being set in my ways and only ever having vintage JMI Vox amps - AC15, AC30 and a current 1968 AC50 head, I have always had a bent toward old Class A sound that only these old amps give.

I noticed how similar the principle behind the TT was to the Vox AC15, so decided I would hunt one down. And I have! Very solid and elegant in its simplicity. I replaced the stock valves with some original British manufactured Mullard ECC83's and 6BQ5's. It now whacks you in the chest with that beaut 6BQ5/EL84 chime the old Voxs had, but in a more portable and robust form.

I noticed a line out in the back of the amp and was wondering if this could also serve as a speaker extension connection?

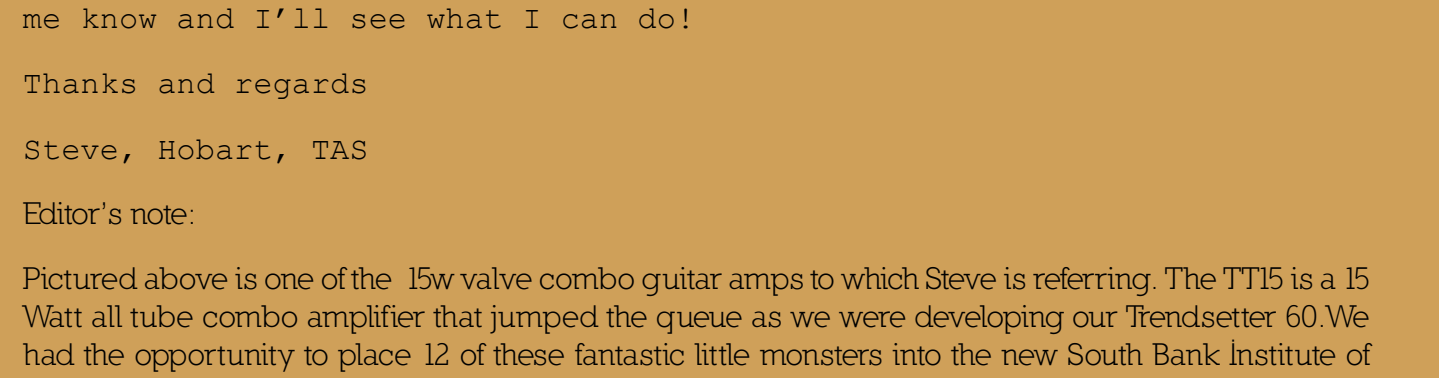
Keep up the great work, and if you need an 'agent/rep' down here, let me know and I'll see what I can do!

Thanks and regards  
Steve, Hobart, TAS

Editor's note:  
Pictured above is one of the 15w valve combo guitar amps to which Steve is referring. The TT15 is a 15 Watt all tube combo amplifier that jumped the queue as we were developing our Trendsetter 60. We had the opportunity to place 12 of these fantastic little monsters into the new South Bank Institute of Technology for their recording and rehearsal studios. Read the full story in the [May 2009 VASE News](#). They have since found new homes and Steve is one of the happy new owners.

## VIA

VASE IN ACTION



Another new live music venue opens with VASE back line playing a starring role! Brooklyn Standard has a nightly lineup of funk, soul and originals. Check out [VASE on Facebook](#) for some videos of the action!



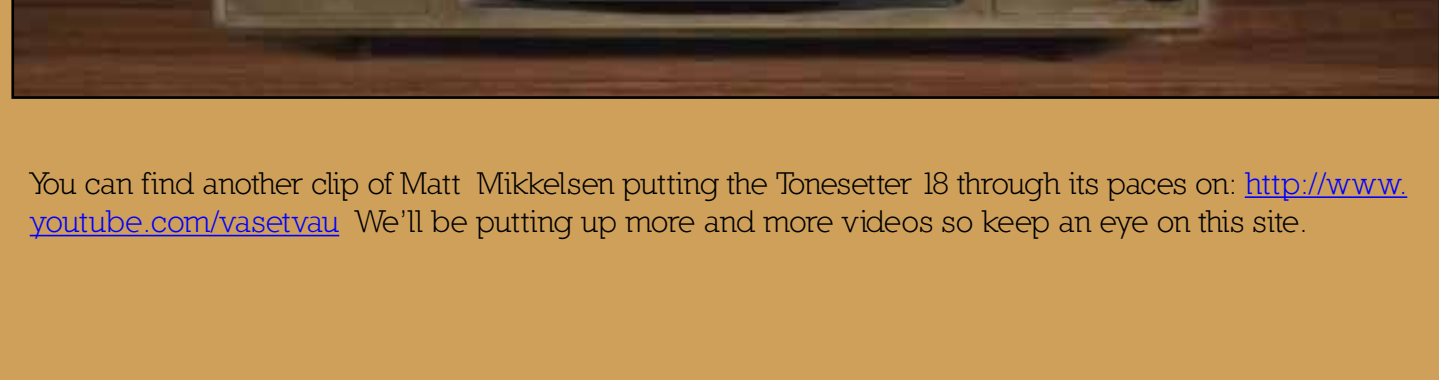
You can find another clip of Matt Mikkelsen putting the Tonesetter 18 through its paces on: <http://www.youtube.com/vasetvau> We'll be putting up more and more videos so keep an eye on this site.

## 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.

Well it's hard to believe the year has turned full circle again. It's been a great year for VASE and our social media channels have recorded that in many ways. VASE fans and devotees, old and new, have posted and commented throughout the year and shared many great vids, pics and words.

This month has seen both ends of the time spectrum in this regard and highlighted the longevity and continuing influence of the VASE brand.



Johnny Gray posted of his early experiences with VASE in the 60s. (See his picture above left).

"Tony Troughton bought with him from the UK the Vase technology and built the first Vase amps in the 1950s under his house at Kedron. I had him build a PA and a bass amp for my band Johnny Gray and the G Men in early sixties. Tony should be remembered."

Jump forward 50 years or so and we have Jake Dickinson of Elektrik Lemonade tearing it up through his Trendsetter at the Airlie Beach Music Festival. (Pictured at right above).

New Music Venue **Brooklyn Standard** featured with its VASE backbone. The stage is pictured above in the VIA Column, the first week's poster is at left. Great to see the brand constantly on show with live music around town.

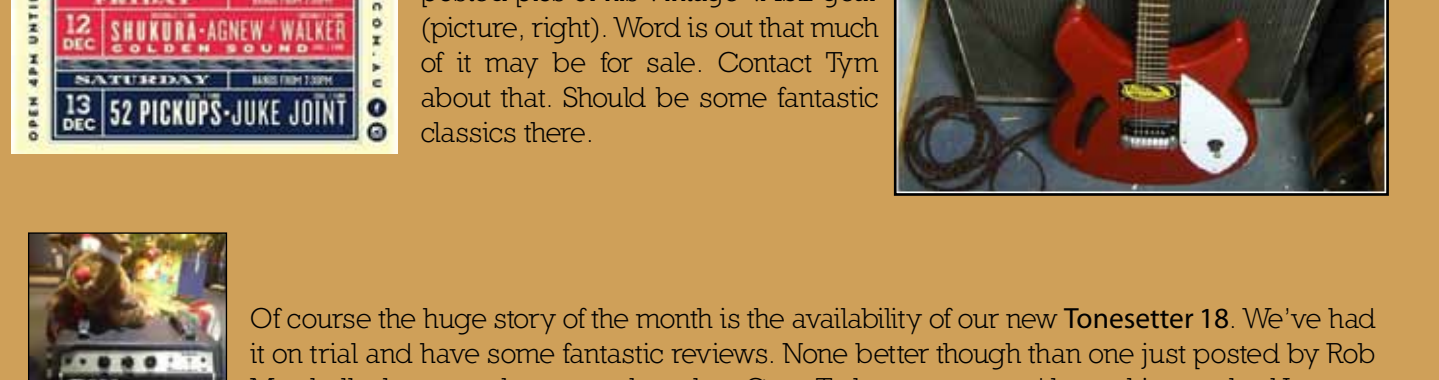
Our mate Tym, from Tym Guitars posted pics of his vintage VASE gear (picture, right). Word is out that much of it may be for sale. Contact Tym about that. Should be some fantastic classics there.



Of course the huge story of the month is the availability of our new Tonesetter 18. We've had it on trial and have some fantastic reviews. None better though than one just posted by Rob Marshall who got a chance to play when Greg Tschernetz stopped by on his travels. Here are his comments (many thanks Rob).

**"Best clean sound I've ever played. The Tonesetter especially blew me away. Snappy blues tones, shimmering cleans and a big fat clean AC/DC type tone when you hit the strings hard. All of this with no effects at all. I'll be getting one.**

Beautiful tube tremolo on the Trendsetter 60 and playing both channels together was just massive."



Play time for me this month. Gretsches have given way to a Vox Teardrop and Burns Hank Marvin Signature.

Hope everyone has a great festive season and New Year.

Have fun, rock hard and stay safe.

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](mailto: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>

A big effort is on to revitalise our Twitter presence. If you tweet, follow us and contribute. Follow us on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/H/vaseamps>

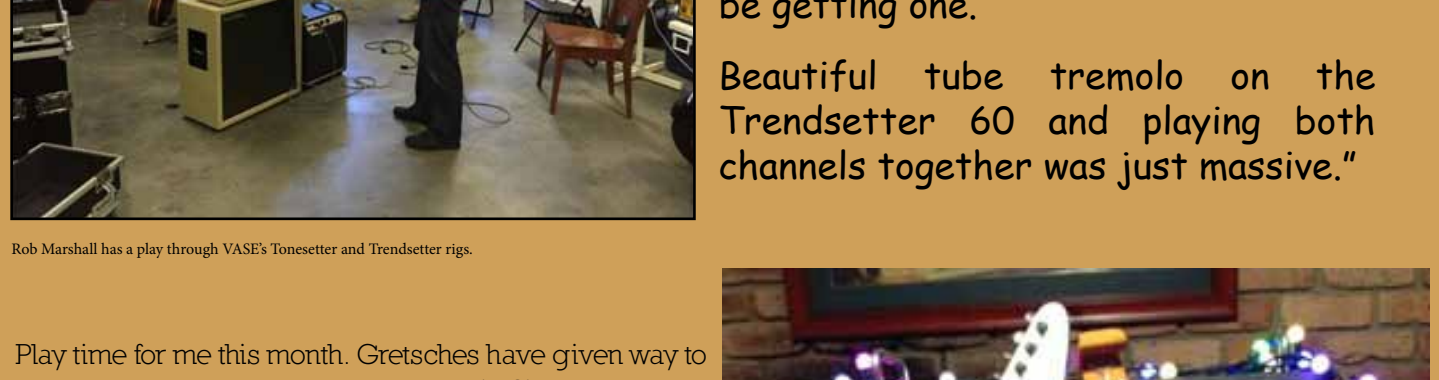
Our new Instagram presence: <http://instagram.com/vaseamps>

And now on Pinterest as well: <http://www.pinterest.com/VASEamps/>

Let us know your thoughts direct on FB and Twitter or at [info@vase.com.au](mailto:info@vase.com.au)

Keep your smart devices charged and ready to shoot when you're out and about.

Cheers



Bye for now. Hope you have a good holiday season and come back ready for a great new year. We at VASE are excited about what the future has to bring and are looking forward to having more and more of you come by for a visit and see for yourself what we're up to. In the meantime, stay in touch by following us on Facebook, Pinterest and Google Plus as well as our VASE website. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Carol and the Crew at VASE!

