

One of the exciting things about VASE is that it has a memorable past as well as a promising future. Spanning the years and the generations is rewarding to us all. We love introducing this iconic Australian product to the younger generation and get great pleasure out of hearing from long time admirers of the brand. This month we feature both ends of the spectrum: the young musicians at a local PCYC and an Australian Musician who has had a long career both here and abroad and is still out there entertaining folks.

Looking Towards the Future: PCYC and VASE Rock Out!



The PCYC (Police Citizens Youth Club) is a wonderful not-for-profit organization for young people in Queensland. It was founded in 1948 and now boasts 54 locations.

The PCYC at Mt. Gravatt in Brisbane caters in part to young people looking to develop their skills and network within the arts and enjoy making music with their friends and meeting new people.

They boast a professional recording studio and regularly host all age events and gigs. Pictured is a recent jam session on the deck. Youth Music Coordinator Drew Stephens dropped us a line:

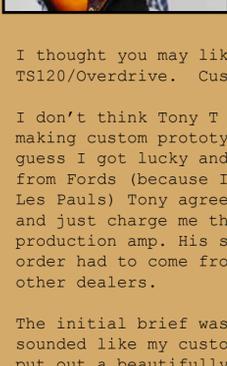
"BTW The amp is amazing! We are hosting regular jam sessions and live music events and has been great to have such a beautiful amp for our local youth to play through and inspire them to pursue their craft further. Please find attached photo of our monthly Skate Night with jam session on the deck.

Thanks so much for your continued support,
Drew Stephens"

To learn more about the PCYC and their activities or to become involved, check out their Website HERE. They work with over 50,000 young people a year and volunteers are valued!

And a View From the Past

VASE heard recently from a long time VASE fan. Mick Diggles shared the story of his first (custom built) VASE rig and brings us up to date on what's been happening with him since. In his words, here's Mick's VASE Tale.



“The amps Tony T senior made were like the vintage Rolls Royce of amps, I doubt if any amps made anywhere in the world were ever made THAT GOOD. ... Certainly not Fender, Vox or Marshall. All of those amps had characteristic sounds that became famous and sought after but none of them were ever made to the quality of Tony T's handmade custom order VASE.

Mick Diggles

I thought you may like to see this pic: VASE TS120/Overdrive. Custom build for me in 1968.

I don't think Tony T (Snr) was that used to making custom prototype amps for people but I guess I got lucky and as part of a sponsorship from Fords (because I was demo-ing their new Les Pauls) Tony agreed to build me a custom amp and just charge me the wholesale for a standard production amp. His stipulation was that the order had to come from Fords so as not to upset other dealers.

The initial brief was that I wanted an amp that sounded like my custom made Playmaster 60 that put out a beautifully over driven 80 Watts RMS but was very unreliable. Of course VASE reliability was legendary versus the Fender amps of the day which were always melting output transformers.

Once I had done the deal with Fords they insisted that I use a Vase amp on stage and lent me a Trendsetter 60 or 80 or whatever they had which I used with an Overem pre amp. The Overem pre amp had two complete channels with gain, four band eq and master and could be programmed by foot switch to get < either > < or > or < in-series >. Quite advanced for the day but the solid state output stage let them down however used with the meaty output of the VASE not bad.

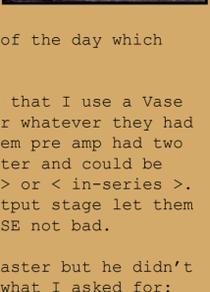
I offered to let Tony hear the sound of the Playmaster but he didn't want to hear it ??? But he did build me what I asked for:

The Spec:

8 x 25 watt Celestion speakers in two closed back columns (all his previous guitar amps had open back quad boxes which had a blaring mid-range on stage that couldn't be heard out front of house and as a result the poor old drummer got swamped with this indistinct back of speaker sound.)

4 x KT88 output stage (I would have been happy with 100 watts - got 120)

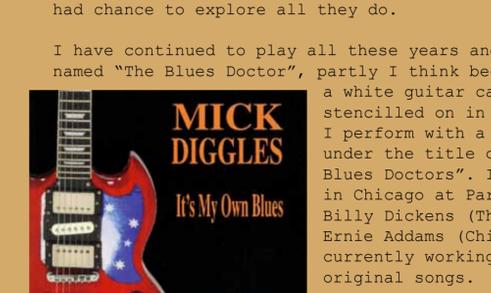
Switchable channels with both clean and overdrive both channels with 3 band eq plus bright switch. (also gave me the bonus option of clean; drive; or both in parallel).



When I went to his workshop under his house to pick the amp up, I took my Playmaster along and played them both to hear the comparison.

Tony said not a thing to me but Mal from Fords told me later that Tony asked if he could have the Playmaster which I traded to Fords so the sound had obviously made an impression on him.

This picture is taken in Melbourne 1971 with the same line up (Laurie Burns and Peter Hardinge) that backed Johnny O'Keefe at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl to 35,000 people. They wouldn't let me use my VASE and I had to use the sponsored 100 Watt Maton amps.



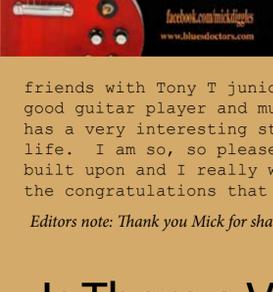
The Grunt of the VASE was very useful playing the Melbourne Town Halls as well as Bertie's, Sebastian's, The

Catcher and the Thumping Tum along with various festivals and as long as there were "Roadies" to do the carrying, why should I care if it weighed 15 tons?

1973 I moved to Sydney and the venues were not as large so I switched back to a VASE Trendsetter 60 with two closed back 2 x 12 ported columns which I had built myself. This was a sweet rig and now we were putting mics on the amps so the days of the monster amp had gone but I often wondered what had happened to that "One of" VASE.TS120/ Overdrive.

I have played through the new VASE amps just a couple of times (at Brooklyn Standard) and I was impressed by the sound but haven't had chance to explore all they do.

I have continued to play all these years and have been nicknamed "The Blues Doctor", partly I think because I used to carry a white guitar case with my initials stencilled on in red - "MD" ... So when I perform with a band it is usually under the title of "Mick Diggles' Blues Doctors". In 2008 I recorded in Chicago at Paragon Recording with Billy Dickens (The Buddha of bass) and Ernie Addams (Chick Corea band) and am currently working on my next album of original songs.



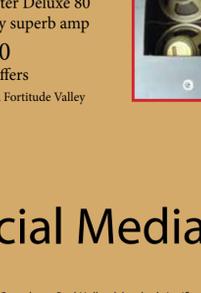
You may have noticed that I use the distinction of saying Tony T "senior" and that is because I am very good friends with Tony T junior (grandson), who is a fantastically good guitar player and musician (and good bloke too) and who also has a very interesting story as to how music became part of his life. I am so, so pleased that the heritage of VASE is being built upon and I really wish you all the very best and afford you the congratulations that you deserve.

Editors note: Thank you Mick for sharing your story. Anyone out there recognise Mick's old rig?

Is There a VASE in Your Future?

VASE is a community and we like to support each other. The fact that we have such a great product with such great lasting power makes this even easier. One of our "family members" has to reluctantly part with a great Vintage VASE rig. Tim of our early 70's VASE Trendsetter Deluxe 80. Good condition with GREAT VASE power valve vibrato, 2 x KT88. Vinyl covering in good condition with some scuff and small tears in bottom of cab. 4 original (new stamps '73) Celestion Green backs. Amp shell missing back plate. Just fully serviced, biased and new IEC fitted. This is an absolutely superb amp. \$2200. Open to offers.

Here are some pictures. This can be seen at Tim's shop 5 Winn St, Fortitude Valley QLD or get on to Tim here.



70's VASE Trendsetter Deluxe 80
This is an absolutely superb amp
\$2200
Open to offers
Tym's Guitars 5 Winn St, Fortitude Valley

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.

Thinking of another couple of lost musical geniuses this month – Sir George Martin and George Harrison. Picking out a couple of Harrison tunes on a sitar guitar.

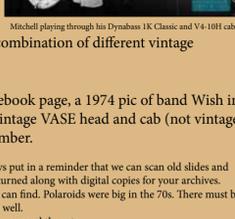


Hard to be really cheery this month as we've had a series of bad news stories, which these days often surface on social media first, about the earthly departure of many of the legends of this music industry. As I write this I've just seen news flash up of Jon English's passing. He'll be fondly remembered as a great contributor to the music industry in Australia and a great bloke.

This comes hot on the heels of Ross Hannaford's death – another Australian legend. We posted a pic of Ross and Daddy Cool performing at the University of Queensland in the early 70s some time ago.

But as I'm sure these great musos would say – keep playing. The show must go on. So while pausing to remember them and pay dues respect let's look forward.

From our Facebook page, a great shot of Mitchell Rosenthal of Ipswich band Fire and Whistle Theory at the launch of their EP "Golden Guns" at the New Globe Theatre in February. Mitchell plays through a VASE Dynabass 1K and V4-10H cab. Our own GT was on proudly on hand at the launch for two reasons. Firstly to fly the VASE flag and secondly because he produced the EP at his own well stocked GBass Studios. A combination of different vintage VASE amps was used during the recording process of the EP.



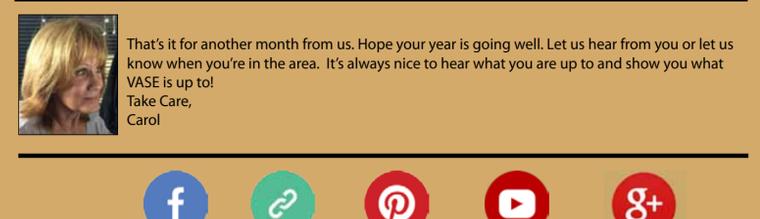
Courtesy of Alan Mackey's Facebook page, a 1974 pic of band Wish in Brisbane with a great looking vintage VASE head and cab (not vintage then of course). Alan was a member.

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 holland@bigpond.net.au or send them to: Paul Holland PO Box 2612Chermide Centre, Q 4032

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>
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

And finally...

Had a visit from Ebony Johnson of Club Greenslopes and Jon Carson who are working on the upcoming Brisbane Guitar Festival at the Greenslopes venue on April 30th. This will sell out! Reserve now, get on to Club Greenslopes [HERE!](http://HERE)



That's it for another month from us. Hope your year is going well. Let us hear from you or let us know when you're in the area. It's always nice to hear what you are up to and show you what VASE is up to!
Take Care,
Carol