



Hello again! We're baaaack! Actually our first story this month takes us way back: to the 60s. The National Battle of the Sounds sponsored by confectioner Hoadley's was an Australian band competition, and our story features one of the bands who had an exciting and successful experience as entrants.

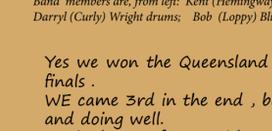
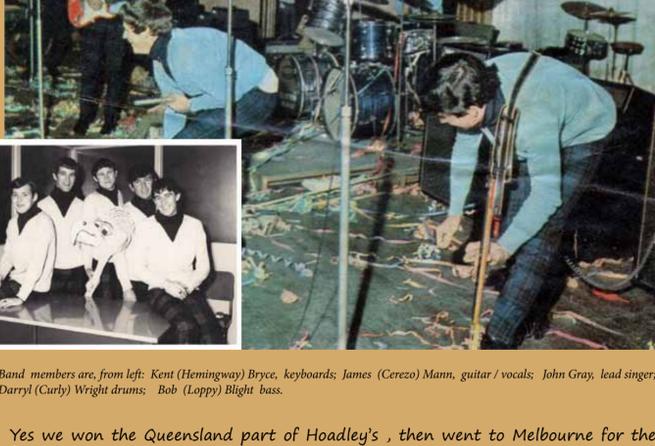
We also catch up with another long time musician and VASE supporter in our VASE Insider Profile.

Finally, VASE unites two very talented individual musicians. You'll love the outcome! Read on!

Memories Are Made of This

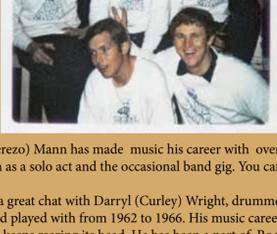
Received a message from James Mann who was employed in the early VASE days by Tony Troughton at Kedron. James was in a band called The Flamingoes when they were finalists in Hoadley's Queensland Battle of the Sounds in 1967. Hoadley's, the sponsor of the competition, was a confectioner who invented Violet Crumble. VASE supplied the amps for the backline and side fills. Here are James' memories of the time:

“ I was going thru some old pix when I came across this one of one of the bands I was in: “The Flamingoes “. It was taken at the finals of Hoadley's Queensland “Battle of the Sounds” Which we won. It was 1967! Anyway, Off to Melbourne etc etc.



Band members are, from left: Kent (Hemingway) Bryce, keyboards; James (Cerezo) Mann, guitar / vocals; John Gray, lead singer; Darryl (Curly) Wright drums; Bob (Loppy) Blight bass.

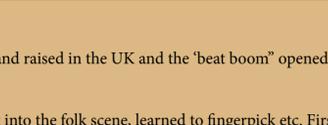
Yes we 3rd the Queensland part of Hoadley's, then went to Melbourne for the finals. WE came 3rd in the end, but the two groups ahead of us both had records out and doing well. We had come from Brisbane with no record behind us. Still for a band from the sticks [as Brisbane and we were then] We did alright to come 3rd.



James (Cerezo) Mann has made music his career with over 50 years of playing, producing, mentoring, you name it! He still plays both as a solo act and the occasional band gig. You can read more about James [here](#) and on his [Facebook Page](#).

Also had a great chat with Darryl (Curley) Wright, drummer in the group. He's also an alumnus of The Dominoes which he started and played with from 1962 to 1966. His music career has been interspersed with other business ventures over the years but music keeps rearing its head. He has been a part of Rock and Roll Revivals from 1992 until 2012, with yearly concerts benefitting various charities. Married to Sherry Wheeler, the couple have three sons (one who plays bass!)

Allen Wheeler



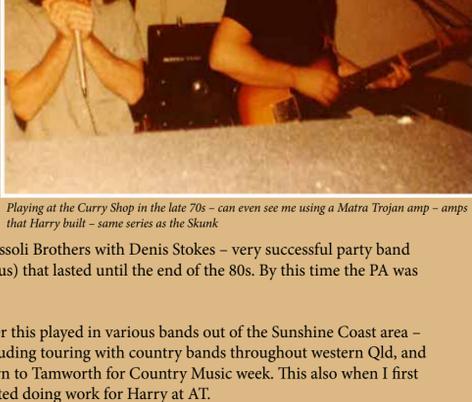
VASE INSIDER PROFILE

Allen Wheeler has taken delivery of his custom single 15 VASE cabinet. Here he shares his musical journey illustrated with great old shots!

“ My musical journey started in the mid-60s: born and raised in the UK and the 'beat boom' opened my ears – Beatles, Stones, Kinks etc.

In late teens started playing acoustic guitar and got into the folk scene, learned to fingerpick etc. First met Peter Lever – he gave me a few early lessons, and whenever a new Rolling Stones album would come out he would learn all the parts and get me round to learn them so I could play rhythm for him.

In my early twenties I got an electric guitar and amp, but struggled to progress as a player. So I also got into saxophone – this is where Harry comes into the picture – he was working at DeAlbo's music shop in Ipswich where he sold me my first tenor sax.



Playing at the Curry Shop in the late 70s – can even see me using a Matra Trojan amp – amps that Harry built – same series as the Skunk

Played sax in Silver Reign (with Peter Lever again) and Panama for several years. In the mid-70s I started playing rhythm guitar in White Lightning – playing country rock. Late 70s-early 80s stretched out in playing lead guitar with the Riff Rockets. In all these bands we used PAs built by Harry and whatever his business was called at the time (all pre AT) – this is where I got my Matra-Vase solid state guitar amps: Trojan, Country Picker.

By the time I got to west 1982 I formed the Rissoli Brothers with Denis Stokes – very successful party band (B&S balls out west were a speciality for us) that lasted until the end of the 80s. By this time the PA was now a much larger AT system.



My Mark Knopfler days – playing at the Wharfies Club early 80s

After this played in various bands out of the Sunshine Coast area – including touring with country bands throughout western Qld, and down to Tamworth for Country Music week. This also when I first started doing work for Harry at AT.

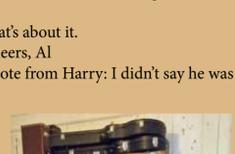
I also went back to playing acoustic guitar in duos (no sequencers!!!) in Helen & The Groovedoctor (my nickname), and later with Mike Anderson (drummer/vocalist extraordinaire) in Wheeler & Dealer.

I then had a 10 year break from live music when I went into the construction industry.



Riff Rockets early 80s at Cooloom

Played with Dave Fitz-Herbert (Vase endorsee) in the Diamond Jacks for a couple of years – put out the self-released CD “Neon Songs”. Played Greasefest, Coolie Rocks and other Kustom Culture type shows. This band got me playing sax again – something I hadn't done for nearly 30 years, and also got me into old style non-pedal steel guitar.



Shot of the Rissoli Brothers (80s) all with our famous rat T Shirt. Denis Stokes (second right) died about 17 years ago, he also worked for Harry at AT for a short time.

Went up to PNG for a year doing construction – while up there sat in with local “national” musicians in Lae to keep my hand in.

Now playing with The Haymakers doing a mix of jump blues, western swing, country and roots rock. Will record sometime later this year.

When I heard Harry had revived the Vase brand and was building valve guitar amps I placed my order for a combo. (Not having got into electric guitar until the mid-70s I missed out on Vase the first time around). I asked if I could get one with a single 15” – always a good choice for a steel guitar. Harry tells me I am always difficult* because I want something different, but it was worth the additional wait (they had to redesign the cabinet for me) because the amp is awesome – both for steel guitar and standard guitar – even my electric mandolin sounds great through it.

That's about it.

Cheers, Al

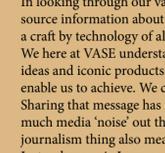
* note from Harry: I didn't say he was difficult, I said he was a pain in the arse!

P.S. (At left) a photo of me at home playing my custom built Melbert twin neck steel guitar through my new Vase amp in front of a few of my “toys”.

- In the photo you can see (for the gear heads) from L to R:
- Extreme left (partially obscured) – 50s King baritone sax
 - Pre-63 Harmony Meteor same model as used by Keith Richards, Dave Davies (the lead break on You Really Got Me), and Peter Green in the early 60s. (From 63 on the DeArmond single coil pickups changed from the “goldfoil” to the “moustache” type)
 - Warmoth Telecaster – this is the one I got off Harry – if I had to have only one guitar this would be the one – all the twang, bite and definition you could ever want
 - New Guild M75 – hollow bodied but no F holes with P90 style pickups. A great guitar for everything from jazzbox type swing chords to gritty roots music.
 - Tokai – Gold Top copy with P90s – good for getting that Danny Kirwan early Fleetwood Mac sound
 - (partially obscured) 1942 Buescher Big B Aristocrat tenor sax. I like old American made saxophones – and if I had to have only one sax this would be the one – this was top of the tree in its day, and is just a great sounding horn
 - Melbert 6 + 8 string twin neck steel guitar. Built by Robert Allen in Tennessee about 5 years ago. (I also have a couple of vintage lap steels but this is the sweetest sounding steel)

“ Of course in the centre of the photo is the new Vase Tonesetter 18 (fitted with a 15” speaker) – even after only a couple of weeks ownership this is the “keeper”. Sounds great no matter what guitar I put through it. First time I used it at band practise it got noticed straightaway – the other guys loved the tone. The thing just rips!! ”

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 am I playing? No real theme this month. A few of the guitars needed restringing – and of course some playing through the trusty Trendsetter 60 DX.

American Tele, Ibanez Artstar, Gibson Les Paul and TSDX60.

In looking through our various social media channels this month I reflected on what a broad choice we now have to source information about anything really. Certainly the music industry has been radically changed as a business and a craft by technology of all forms.

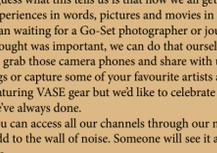
We here at VASE understand the importance of celebrating our past and embracing the future to preserve and champion those ideas and iconic products that first made our name. However we also continue the best of what new technology can enable us to achieve. We celebrate and innovate.

Sharing that message has never been easier, however the richness of choice can sometimes mean that there is so much media ‘noise’ out there that we often miss things or simply lose them in the blur of offerings. The whole citizen journalism thing also means that everyone with a smartphone in his or her pocket is a worldwide publishing point. Just a chance pic I came across on Facebook reminded me of a media channel from a simpler time when I was first listening and playing. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Go-Set magazine that for almost a decade was the must-have music mag in Australia. That, alongside the Top 40 radio stations and some newspaper columns, provided our early staple diet of industry info and gossip.

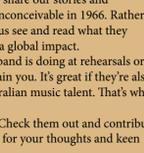
Of course it also launched and amplified the careers of some of Australia's favourite industry artists, managers and commentators. Of course VASE was a key part of that time, with our amps being used by many of Australia's top bands and spreading out across the world. VASE friend and music legend Normie Rowe was one of them.



One of Go-Sets famous covers



Normie Rowe & The Playboys - Tour of UK with full VASE backline



A younger Paul McCartney looking pretty groovy

I guess what this tells us is that now we all get the chance to share our stories and experiences in words, pictures and movies in ways almost inconceivable in 1966. Rather than waiting for a Go-Set photographer or journalist to let us see and read what they thought was important, we can do that ourselves now with a global impact.

So grab those camera phones and share with us what your band is doing at rehearsals or gigs or capture some of your favourite artists as they entertain you. It's great if they're also featuring VASE gear but we'd like to celebrate all great Australian music talent. That's what we've always done.

You can access all our channels through our main website. Check them out and contribute. Add to the wall of noise. Someones will see it and thank you for your scans and keen eye.

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.

Not 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>
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Follow us on our VIMEO at <http://vimeo.com/VASEAMPS>
Our Instagram presence: <http://instagram.com/vaseamps>
Our Pinterest as well: <http://www.pinterest.com/VASEAMPS/>
For those from Planet Google, find us on Google+: <https://plus.google.com/+VaseAu/posts>
Let us know your thoughts direct on any of these channels or at info@vase.com.au

It sometimes happens that it becomes necessary to part with some of your VASE gear. This posting is a means of putting you in touch with each other for buying or selling used VASE equipment.

Always happy to help find a new home for old friends!

For sale by owner...

I have an old P.A. system in as new condition. ..wondered if you're interested in it before I sell it on the market...Tom Kerr

Hi Tom, We're not currently adding to our “vintage” stock but we're glad to help you sell it. If it's still available, let us know and we can put it in the next newsletter.

Yes...i am still going to sell it...The amp head hums and needs some attention. ..not sure what it's worth apart from sentimental value...

If you think you might be interested in Tom's boxes, let us know and we'll put you in touch.



Greg Trennery has some gear for sale as well. Here's a list and prices:

2 X 412 column cabinets (unloaded) \$300 the pair

1 X 312 guitar cabinet (unloaded) \$350

1 X 215 bass cabinet (loaded with celestion speakers) \$700

Or the LOT! \$1000

Greg's in Croydon Melbourne and can be reached at 04182900257

And finally...

Here's a treat for you: get those headphones ready, turn up the volume and listen to Tim Gaze and Steve Tebbett as documented by Doug Watt at VASE Headquarters recently. Click [here!](#)

This won't be the last you hear from these two. Stay tuned!



That's all for this month, for your VASE fix between issues, hop on to Facebook or one of the other social media buttons below! And remember to be in touch, we look forward to your input and, like dotting parents, like to hear what you've been up to!

Carol and your VASE Family!



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