

Minutes

Meeting of the AEVA Tas Branch
Hobart Showgrounds, 23/11/2022 19:32

Attendance

Christopher Walkden (Secretary), Ray Johnston, Charles Gregory (Vice Chair), Clive Attwater (Treasurer), Shayn Harkness, Julie Hargreaves, Michael Wadsley, Penny Wadsley, John Fast, Penny Cocker (Chair), Midj Jones, Jon Ettershank (Director), Margaret Kinsela, Sushila Desay, Frank Leifried, Keith Thompson, Bryce Longmore, Bruce Hocking, Richard Ormerod, Millard Ziegler, Annick Anselin, David Davey, March Granger, Krys Smiedanski, Rhys Filbee, Sarah Krulow, Graham Stuewart, Luke Murray, Craig Clark, Sandra Harris, Laura Eiszele, Michael Harris, Andrew Cash, Jorgen Jorgensen, Sue Webster, Jim Mansbridge

Apologies

Michael Bonny, Ron Andersen, John Casimaty

Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

Moved by Midj Jones, seconded by Charles Gregory that the minutes of the previous meeting (available [here](#)) be accepted as an accurate record; carried.

Correspondence in/out

The Motorcycle Riders Association of Tasmania is holding a Toy Run on December 3 in Hobart. For more information, including if you'd like to volunteer for this worthwhile event, give the MRAT Souths a call on: 0420 493 500.

Extract of a letter from Julie Thompson, Committee Secretary for the Parliament of Tasmania, Government Business Scrutiny Committee 'B':

Government Business Scrutiny Hearings – Invitation to Comment

The Legislative Council Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee 'B' will be scrutinising Aurora Energy Pty Ltd at a public hearing on Wednesday, 30 November 2022.

To enable the Committee to gain a better understanding of the operations of the above Government Business and to allow for more appropriate scrutiny, the Committee is seeking further information from relevant stakeholders.

Accordingly, it would be appreciated if you could let me know if you or a representative of your organisation would be interested and available to meet informally with the Members of the Committee in relation to the above Government Business on Tuesday, 29 November 2022. Alternatively, the Committee would be grateful to receive any written comments you wish to make.

Penny Cocker has replied that she will meet with the committee, and asked for suggestions or observations about Aurora. Several people responded and gave Penny some points to raise.

Email from Warwick Cathro, AEVA National Secretary, 21/11/22:

The Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth has commenced an inquiry into Australia's transition to a green energy superpower.

The Committee Secretary invited a submission from AEVA, with submissions due by 30 November.

A draft submission has been prepared, and can be found [here](#).

I encourage you to pass this link on to any members of your Branch who may be interested in reviewing this draft, and providing comments by Sunday 27 November. The comments can be sent to me <secretary@aeva.asn.au>.

Extract from an email from Pauline Marsh, 8/11/2022:

We have a Ford transit Van that has recently had a lot of engine troubles. It is prompting us to investigate an EV conversion. From what I can see, it looks like in Tassie we DIY, and your group is a member support group that helps people to do this?

Our dilemma is we are on a small block and can't store the van while we work on it - it would take us quite a while I imagine because we are not very mechanical!

Can you tell me if there are any people who are happy to share some land/workshop space for conversions? We are in the southeast (Dodges).

Penny Cocker replied to Pauline, stating that yes, conversions in Tasmania are difficult and costly, but that we could read out her email at a meeting to see if anyone could help. If you would like to talk to Pauline about her project please contact the secretary.

General Business

Treasurer's Report, 23/11/2022

Balance at last meeting: **\$406.88**

Since the last meeting -

Payments made:

Postage, EV tags \$60.00

Total payments **\$60.60**

Income received:

Launceston, Hobart, Agfest displays \$898.70

The current balance is **\$1,245.58**

Amounts outstanding:

Agfest expenses not yet paid \$1,653.82

When all outstanding amounts are cleared, we will have a net negative balance of **\$408.24**. A top-up from National Office is expected.

Since the beginning of the financial year, AEVA has been subject to GST reporting. Amounts quoted include GST where applicable. We may be liable to submit GST where revenue exceeds expenses or receive a refund where expenses exceed revenue.

All future pricing must make clear the amount of GST included (or added) to any amount quoted.

Clive Attwater moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded by Ray Johnston, carried.

News

Charles presented some slides, available [here](#).

- First slide shows the Ebusco Bus, currently on a whirlwind tour of Tasmania. Ian Garth from the company has been taking it around the state to talk to potential buyers. Ebusco is applying to be one of four companies supplying electric buses for the state government zero emissions bus trial.
- The other photo on the first slide is the JAC truck from JMC. This was displayed at the Launceston and Hobart Shows. Christopher Walkden drove it for a few days and wrote a review (with videos) [here](#).
- The second slide shows some posts from Facebook for new charging stations in Tasmania.
- The third slide shows the site of Evie's next DC fast charger at Kingston Town Shopping Centre. There is also a photo of a completed Evie site in Victoria. Evie is installing a number of charging stations around Hobart as per their ARENA grant. The locations are nominally Glenorchy, Rosny, Airport and North(ish) Hobart, but most locations have not yet been disclosed precisely.
- The next slide shows four models of Tritium fast chargers. This sparked a discussion in the room about the public perceptions of chargers. Which one can I use for my car? 'Charging for beginners' would be a good topic for future talks/workshops/etc. by AEVA Tas.
- Next is an update from the Glamorgan Spring Bay council on their survey results (see previous minutes). Clive mentioned that the council would like to install some sort of charging in every town.
- The following slide is an extract from a planning application in the north west of the state, showing two EV charging bays.
- In NSW, the state government is quite advanced in grants for charging stations. The map shows the results of the first third of \$180 million in grants. Note that Tesla attracted almost half of the funding. Tesla fast chargers up to now have been for Tesla vehicles only, but these will be open to all cars that can use CCS2 (i.e., not some older cars). Four of these sites will have 15 stalls. The minimum charge rate for this grant is 175 kW.
- The final slide is from Plugshare, and shows the Australian DC fast chargers in 2018 and 2022.

Tasmanian Chargers [\(Click here](#) for the latest Tas fast charger map by Charles)

- Electric Highway Tasmania (EHT) has grants to install 10 new DC fast charger sites under the Tasmanian government Charge Smart program, and is also contracted to install another 5 for other operators. In addition, EHT has grants to install 5 sites with ARENA grant funding. Of these 20 new sites, perhaps 8-10 should be operational by the end of 2022. Another 4-5 should be operational early in 2023, with the remainder being more problematical. All sorts of problems crop up, for instance the Kingston council can't grant access to a critical switchboard until January...
- EnergyROI are on track to have their Georgetown and Strahan DC charging sites operational by the end of 2022. They also have a destination charger going in at Southport.
- A question was asked about whether there will be enough charging capacity to support a rapid EV deployment. EHT has thus far installed one DC and one AC charger at each site, and has a strategy to expand each site when queuing exceeds 5% on average. The Devonport, Burnie and Swansea sites are to be upgraded soon for this reason. In many cases, expansion of an existing site should be much easier than starting a new site. The reliability of chargers is a big factor. Tesla has thus far been extremely reliable, which is quite likely because they only allow Teslas to charge. They therefore only have a limited number of car models to interface with. Other chargers, which have to connect to any EV, have had more problems. It will be interesting to see if Tesla can be as reliable once they open up to allow charging of other vehicles.

As far as electricity goes, the grid is theoretically capable of supplying the required energy for massive EV uptake, both in Tasmania and Australia as a whole. This does depend on good strategies to ensure that peak demands are kept in check – the grid could not handle everyone turning on their EV chargers at the same time. Organisations such as Tas Networks are actively developing ways to ensure that the bulk of EV charging is conducted during off-peak times. For instance, a particular energy product might be cheap, because it allows the grid operator to control when you charge your vehicle. This can be done using an internet-enabled charger, or even directly to the car (i.e., it does not require a separate circuit in the switchboard).

At the same time, the non-EV electricity peak demand is falling, total consumption is falling, and solar installations are ever increasing. It has been theorised that in South Australia, where solar generation is forecast to sometimes exceed total grid load, it may be advantageous to *pay* people to charge their car at certain times!

- A question was asked about whether any charging equipment is made in Australia. Tritium and Jet Charge are both Australian companies.

Launceston Conversions Group

This is a Launceston-based group of AEVA members and non-members interested in converting vehicles to electric. Please contact the secretary if you'd like to be involved, you'll be added to the email list.

No update this meeting.

Hobart Conversions Group

This is a Hobart-based group of AEVA members and non-members interested in converting vehicles to electric. Please contact the secretary if you'd like to be involved, you'll be added to the email list.

No reports from anyone doing anything in this space.

National AEVA

- Jon Ettershank is our board member at the national level. The board lodged a response to the National EV Strategy Consultation Paper, it can be viewed [here](#). They have also drafted a submission to the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth, as per the Correspondence section above.
- National AGM was held on the 21st of November. Minor changes were made to the new constitution. The minutes, reports etc. will be posted [here](#) when completed.

Reports on Events

- October 8 [Launceston Show](#) (See some photos [here](#))
Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out!
The Launceston Show was at Quercus (where Agfest is held) for the first time. This is a massive space for the Show, and so we asked if we could take people for rides around the internal 'streets'. This was agreed to, and so we offered 'Tesla rides for the kids'. We mainly focused on Teslas for this reason, but another highlight was the JAC truck which Christopher drove around the track.
We had a display of cars, with cars at the front able to go out onto the road to give rides. Christopher's idea was that we'd keep a selection of car models at the front, so people could choose a Tesla S, or 3, or Hyundai Kona, or whichever they wanted. But apparently it was much more important to ride in 'the red one', or 'the black one'! So we adapted to have different colour cars at the front.
The Show was from Thursday to Saturday, but we chose to attend only on the Saturday. This was a good choice of day, as more patrons chose to go on this day than the others combined. There were still not many patrons though.
The weather was good until it rained at about 2pm. And then it hailed. People still took

their cars out on the track though, it made for a good test of the traction control.

- October 20-22 [Hobart Show](#)

The Hobart Show this year was at the Regatta Grounds. AEVA attended for all three days, with a static display of cars and brochures etc. There were good crowds on the Thursday & Friday, but rain kept people away on the Saturday, which provided lots of time to chat! Friday was open until 10pm, but the last person at the AEVA site was at 8pm, so it wasn't worth manning the site into the evening.

Again – a bit thank you to the volunteers, including Jon, who organised but couldn't attend due to illness.

Planning for Upcoming Events

- January 25 [Tas Branch Meeting](#) including a site visit to The Vale. The Vale is a farm near Sheffield, owned by entrepreneur Simon Hackett. He has a large installation of solar panels and Redflow batteries, with plans to fully electrify the operations of the farm business. He also is involved with electric planes, and has owned Teslas since they were first available in Australia.

The format of the day will be a site visit in the late afternoon, then dinner in Devonport, then the the AEVA meeting at the Paranalple. Please RSVP using the link above so we can be sure of numbers.

Some people might like to car pool to Devonport? Christopher will add an option to the registration form so that you can indicate this when you apply. If you have already registered, email the secretary to register your interest in a car pool.

- March 11 & 12 [Fully Charged Live Australia](#) (follow the link for an AEVA discount)
- March 25 & 26 [Big Weekend of Sustainable Living Ideas](#)

Christopher spoke to Sandra Astill about this event in Bridgewater. The main venue is the Brighton Civic Centre, and Sandy thinks that it includes all of the car park around it. If this is the case then she thinks that an Elektrikhana would be a good addition to the weekend. Keep this in your calendar!

- March 26th [Devonport Motor Show](#)
- April 1st [NW Ecofest](#) (Ulverstone)

This year AEVA ran an Elektrikhana (test drive day) at Ecofest. The organisers invited us to a meeting to discuss doing the same next year. Julie & Shayn attended the meeting, and reported that the organisers were very pleased with the job we did, it was a good attraction for the event. They have even offered us financial help if we need it this time.

- May 4, 5, 6 [Agfest](#)

The committee discussed Agfest, and has made an application for a 20x20 m site for 2023. We'll use this smaller site to concentrate on EVs relevant to rural Tasmania, including utes, 4WDs, vans, trucks, tractors, ATVs etc. If you know a business that might like to display their products at our stand, please contact the secretary.

- Elektrikhana for commercial vehicles?

Clive had an idea that since there are so many commercial vehicles becoming available, perhaps we should run a test drive day specifically for them. Nothing has been decided yet, but here are some ideas:

- If we invite vehicle dealers and manufacturers, they could provide vehicles to view and drive.
- Dealers and manufacturers could also give talks on their products, including what is coming in the pipeline. This could turn the event into a mini conference.
- Jackson Motor Company are keen for an event like this, they have their truck (see above) and are intending to import a ute.
- We could invite fleet purchasing managers (and similar) from industry and government to attend.
- Quercus (where Agfest is held) might be a good venue. It has a conference centre, lots of private roads, and it is fairly central to the state. Rural Youth hires out the site for events like this, and even offers catering options. The site is not available

- one month either side of Agfest.
- We have a full calendar up until early May. If we schedule this event for a date after that, we could advertise it at those earlier events.
- The Tasmanian bus trial will be announced at some stage, the timing might be relevant for this event.
- We would seek sponsorship for this event. We could also require payment from dealers, manufactures and/or delegates. This would be to pay for the site hire, catering and advertising.
- If you have ideas please contact the secretary! It would be good to get a sub-committee together to make some decisions.

Meeting Venue

The Glenorchy showgrounds is being redeveloped, which means we will lose our Hobart meeting room. We will need a new venue for our next Hobart meeting (scheduled for May). If you have any suggestions please contact the secretary.

Meeting closed 20:46

Next meeting: 19:00 January 25th at the Devonport Paranaple

Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of every second month, see our [website](#) for a full list of meeting dates and locations.

Text written in italics was added by the Secretary while writing the minutes, and was not part of the meeting on the day.

General information:

For more information on any of the topics covered, or for contact information of the people mentioned, contact the secretary Christopher Walkden at: secretary@tas.aeva.asn.au

Want to join the AEVA or join our mailing list? Need info on EVs? See our [website](#).

Members' discounts:

- 20% off **Tesla Limousines & Tours** <https://teslatours.limo/> (Statewide)
- Discounted EV chargers from **Gelco**: <http://www.gelcoservices.com.au/>
- Fonzarelli Electric Scooters are offering a 5% discount and a free charger pack to AEVA members: <http://www.fonzarelli.co/>