

Minutes

Meeting of the AEVA Tas Branch

Online only, 20/05/2020 19:05

Attendance

AEVA Members

Charles Gregory, Clive Attwater, Christopher Walkden, Shayn Harkness, Julie Hargreaves, Ray Johnston, John Clark, Tim O'Loughlin, Di Elliffe, Ian Kilgour, John Casimaty, Penny Cocker, Warren Boyles, Phil Hinds, Ron Andersen, Charles Gregory, Clive Attwater, Grant Vowles, Michael Wadsley, Penny Wadsley, Midj Jones, Rose Grant.

Guests (may include members, but unidentified due to Zoom alias)

Anton Kole, John F, Megan.

Apologies

None.

Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

Moved by Ray Johnston, seconded by Clive Attwater that the amended minutes be accepted as an accurate record; carried.

Correspondence in/out

AEVA has been approached by a group of Australian electricity network providers (including Tas Networks), who are applying for ARENA funding for a home car charging trial. The project would trial network management of home charging. If home charging can be turned on or off (or up or down) by the network provider, then the situation of every person in the street charging at the same time could be avoided. This in turn could help avoid transformer upgrades in particular areas, saving money for the network providers.

If approved, the trial will be looking for volunteers around the country. To participate, you'd have to install a car charger which could be controlled externally. Presumably compatible chargers will be advertised once the trial is started. Presumably also, there would be some kind of incentive for allowing your charger to be controlled.

If you are thinking of putting in a charger, and would like to participate in the trial, consider delaying your purchase until the details are released (hopefully mid-June). We'll announce any further information as it comes to hand.

Email from Paul Vandenberg, 16/5/20:

I'm wondering if some of your members would have some advice for me. It's a bit of an unusual vehicle.

I have a small 2 seater hovercraft that I want to convert to electric. It's currently powered by two air-cooled Solo 210 engines (one for lift and one for thrust) that produce 15hp @ 6000rpm. The engines are hard to start and extremely noisy. The engines are also exposed to the elements.

What I'm looking for is replacements, and I'd like to go electric rather than petrol. They would need to have some degree of weather-proofness and be about the same power. If any of your members have advice on what to use I'd appreciate it.

Here's a photo of the hovercraft attached. You can see the engine locations. One is vertical and the other horizontal.

In response to a suggestion, Paul made a post on the AEVA forum here:

<https://forums.aeva.asn.au/viewtopic.php?p=79288#p79288>



General Business

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report, 20/05/2020

Payments made since the last meeting: Zoom subscription \$230.89

Income was received of \$0.74 in bank interest.

The current balance is **\$4,182.40**

The Zoom subscription is an annual cost, and may be reimbursed by AEVA National. AEVA Tas offered to subscribe, and then let the account be used by other branches around the country.

Moved by Clive Attwater, seconded by Penny Cocker that the report be received; carried.

News

There has not been a great deal happening, but Charles noted the following:

- Tas Facebook members have been spotting 'new' Nissan Leafs imported mainly by the Good Car Company.
- There have been a number of new Tesla Model 3s imported into the state.
- The Tasmanian Government has released their draft [Renewable Energy Action Plan](#), and are asking for feedback.
- The Tesla [Battery Day](#) has been postponed, but leaks are suggesting that Tesla is planning to announce a dramatic reduction the cost per kWh of electricity storage.

Tasmanian Chargers

Some musings from Clive on DC Fast Chargers around the state (excludes EHT chargers). Nothing here is definite, it is based on what he's heard:

- Devonport, Hobart and Geeveston Fast Chargers are progressing slowly. They will probably not meet the end of June deadline for the Tas government grants.
- There is no progress apparent at Campbell Town.

Report from Clive Attwater of Electric Highway Tasmania

Clive gave a presentation recently via Zoom. You can see the notes on the website [here](#). Civil works are due to begin in May and June for the new Fast Chargers. This work is weather related, and so may suffer delays at this time of year. The west coast sites are planned to begin first, then on to the east coast sites. The Burnie site is being delayed due to having to dig underneath a railway track.

Some sites should be open for business by the end of June as planned. Smithton, which was not covered under the government grant, will be later.

Some further organisations have approached EHT to suggest new site partnerships. There is nothing concrete to report on this front, but EHT is open to new sites.

The cost to use the EHT chargers has been disclosed (see the presentation linked above), but not advertised (there are no chargers installed yet!). There has been some discussion on Facebook, with some opinions that the price is very high. Clive made the following points in response to a question from Charles:

- The pricing is designed to move people on, so they don't stay at chargers longer than they need to. It includes a cost for time as well as a cost for electricity.
- The pricing is similar to that by [Evia Networks](#).
- If people think the price is too high, and they move on to charge somewhere else, then this is an indication that the pricing is working correctly.
- EHT is installing most of their chargers in places that will have low traffic volumes that will vary greatly with the (tourist) seasons. The EHT business model assumes that the chargers won't make money for some years, and some sites possibly never will.
- Historically, and especially in other countries that have had significant EV fleets for some time, many organisations have allowed charging for 'free'. Notably Tesla, but also other organisations that have paid for the infrastructure with grants. Also the NRMA chargers in NSW are free to members.

This means that people use DC Fast Chargers far more than they would if they were charged a realistic price (these chargers cost tens of thousands of dollars to purchase and install, and there are significant operating costs). If it is free, then you'll charge at a DC Fast Charger instead of charging at home! This model is not sustainable once the grant runs out, or once there are many more EVs wanting to use the charger.

- Some vehicle manufacturers in Australia are now offering free charging for a time when someone buys one of their electric vehicles. This is provided by the manufacturers paying the Chargefox network. EHT uses Chargefox, so this will include EHT chargers. This may also distort user behaviour, but at least EHT is being paid for it!

AEVA Website

The new AEVA website went live in early April, after years of volunteer labour! You can read an introduction here: <https://aeva.asn.au/articles/the-new-aeva-website/>

This includes a new membership database, so if you were a member then you were imported over without your username or password. You'll need to activate your account to get things going. You should have received an email with instructions, or you can go [here](#) and reset your password at any time.

The website is worth visiting because members are uploading news and articles all the time. If you have something to share, let the secretary know, who can post it for you. If you think you'll have lots to share, or want to do a better job than the secretary, then we can give you access to upload things yourself.

We're also looking for volunteers to post information about our Business members. These have to be uploaded individually, and there are a dozens of them to do. You can see the ones we've done so far [here](#). Once uploaded, these will start to appear on the branch pages, to give our Business members value for the money they've so kindly spent on their membership.

Thanks goes to may people, but in particular:

Webmaster Rob Hills

Assistant Webmaster Christopher Walkden

Secretary Chris Jones

John Clark

Wessley Koop

Heath Lang

Richard Baird

We couldn't have done it without [Medeopolis IT Solutions](#). Their heavily discounted work has been, and will continue to be, invaluable!

AEVA Keychains

The WA branch of AEVA produced some keychains for a project they are running. They made different colours to use as rewards for different levels of involvement. They also made up some blue ones, for distribution to all the AEVA branches. They cost \$3.60 to make, and the suggested pricing is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Nobody had any particular comments on this, so the secretary will make them available at those prices. They possibly won't be distributed until we have face to face meetings again.

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.

The Launceston College Mighty Boy is in lockdown. The state of the battery is unknown, since the battery monitoring system was installed, and that drains power over time. The purchased charger is not suitable, and a new charger is proving difficult to source.

Christopher has been working on his Brumby. He installed his new battery, but after a short time there were problems apparent. It looks like the cells may have been shorting out on the mounting hardware. For full details see the AEVA forum posts here:

<https://forums.aeva.asn.au/viewtopic.php?f=33&t=2418&start=250>.

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.

Please contact the secretary if you'd like to be the convener (arrange meetings, working bees etc.), as we currently don't have one.

Reports on Events

Agfest in the Cloud

This online version of Agfest is running until May 28th. AEVA Tas has a page which directs people to our website. We also decided to hold online talks. See all the info and talk times on our website [here](#). Talks so far have been a learning experience. We are getting practice with Zoom. Paid Zoom is a superior product to free Skype. The talks are popular enough that we should continue them on into the future, with appropriate promotion.

Planning for Upcoming Events

- 26th September - 4th October – [National Drive Electric Week](#). AEVA Vic (where national AGM will be held this year) have cancelled their plans for a conference and public test drive event. Instead, they are proposing a week-long members' drive around the state, staying at COVID-friendly accommodation and visiting tourist places along the way. This would be suitable for vehicles with 300km + range. The event would end up with the AEVA AGM, possibly conducted over Zoom, possibly with people in their cars! This is in the early planning stages, and may change drastically depending on what happens in the meantime. Watch this space.
- Another Elektrikhana?
Elektrikhana is our test-drive day. It seems logical to hold one in the north-west, but it needs someone to drive it. Please contact the secretary if you think you could spare the time to coordinate an event like this (in any location, not just the north-west).

Meeting closed 20:30.

Next meeting: 19:00 July 22nd. Includes Tas AGM. Currently planned for Hobart Showgrounds, but could be online instead. See our [website](#) for a full list of meeting dates.

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/>
- 10% off tours by Segway Tasmania. <http://www.segwaytasmania.com/>

EV News Deadlines (national newsletter)

- 1 June – articles, advertisements
- 15 June – branch reports, for sale / wanted