

Minutes

Meeting of the AEVA Tas Branch
Launceston College, 31/03/2021 19:03

Attendance

AEVA Members

Charles Gregory, Christopher Walkden, Julie Hargreaves, Ray Johnston, John Harders, Shayne Harkness, Midj Jones, John Fast, Paul French, Zara Walkden, Kerry Garwood, Alan Gregory, Rose Grant

Guests (please excuse errors, some are difficult to identify due to Zoom alias or handwriting!)

Sean Manners, Kate Gregory, Patricia Adams

Apologies

Ron Andersen, Penny Cocker, Warren Boyles, James Markos, John Casimaty, Clive Attwater

Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

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

Correspondence in/out

No notable correspondence

General Business

Treasurer's Report, 31/3/2021

Balance at last meeting:	\$4,557.00
Since the last meeting -	
Payments made:	
Batteries for TV remote	\$18.14
NW Ecofest	\$40.00
Rural Youth AgFest entry	\$741.50
Income received:	nil
The current balance is	\$3,757.36

Moved by John Fast, seconded by Alan Gregory that the report be received; carried.

News

- The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) is providing \$16.5m to fund fast charging in metropolitan areas (*the first round of the [Future Fuels Fund](#)*). Ray provided a report:

EHT was established in 2017 by eight AEVA shareholders to advance the deployment of EV fast chargers to cover Tasmania and provide high quality, highly reliable charging options to allow EV drivers to travel right around Tasmania with no concerns of range anxiety.

We have recently installed our sixth fast charger at Swansea, and are seeing much higher usage across the chargers than we expected to see at this stage. I suspect much is from mainland tourists taking advantage of the free vehicle transport on the spirit.

Arena (Australian Renewable Energy Agency) have recently announced funding for centres across the country. For Tasmania this is \$400,000 to provide charging options for the greater Hobart area. EHT have decided to put forward a bid for this funding.

We have been able to raise the additional capital required to undertake this project if we are successful in our bid.

We may be offering further investment options later in the year if people are interested in investing in the company. We are expecting further funding rounds for more regional charger options which we will definitely be tendering for.

- Ray said that the response from potential sites has been very positive. But he can't say where the potential sites are yet!
- EHT have introduced a new off-peak rate for their charging, before 8am and after 9pm.
- The Evie Westbury fast charging site has not been started. It will be located at the IGA supermarket.
- Charles reported that recent EV sales puts the Tasmanian population over 450.
- The Porsche Taycan has been an unexpectedly good seller, with five sold in Tasmania so far. The MG ZS EV has also been selling well. *Information on models can be found on our website [here](#).*
- The Kia EV6 has been announced. It is similar to the Ioniq 5 – reasonably expensive, a couple of models with a range of about 300-500 km.
- The [EV Grid Project](#) is a trial of grid-controlled home charging of EVs. The trial partners include Tas Networks. The project is looking for participants, and is offering a free home charger to selected candidates. The word is that Tasmania is significantly oversubscribed, but you can still register your interest by following the link above.

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.

Launceston College owns a Suzuki Mighty Boy, the meeting participants were taken to see it after the 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.

This group has been inactive for a while, but has recently come back to life thanks to Tane's plans to convert a BMW. Tane and Rowena put this report together:

The Hobart AEVA conversion group have now met twice and with palpable enthusiasm! Rowena's 'Essie', a gorgeous little Holden Rodeo, is the Tesla powered Hyper9 project that galvanises the group, while Tane's classic BMW is following Essie's lead with a very similar conversion. With these conversions and more planned, this freshly re-banded group is alive and strong! Please feel free to join us on the 17th of April for another team meeting. Exciting times ahead!

Contact the secretary to be put in contact.

Reports on Events

- February 18th – State Government **Fast Charge Network Launch** in Kings Meadows.
It was noted that once the fast charger in Swansea opened, the coverage for the state was quite extensive. This was a prompt for the Tasmanian Government to hold a 'launch' for the chargers installed through their grant programme. The event was attended by the premier, who specifically called out some other states' proposed EV taxes. He said that people should holiday in Tasmania with their EV.
- March 4th - **Brighton Evie DC Charger**.
This was for testing and photos once the charger went live.
- March 21st – [Devonport Elektrikhana](#) (*see the link for photos*).
This event went smoothly. About 150 people registered, and about 150 rides and drives were taken (multiple people in each ride, so people had multiple rides). Teslas were very popular, there was queuing specifically for the Teslas at one point. Some people weren't able to come, so there were fewer cars available than we had hoped. More would definitely have been appreciated.
Ray heard one person say, having previously ridden in a Tesla, and as he exited the MG, "Now that's a proper car". He was referring to the gauges, the buttons and the price.
Another noteworthy thing was when an Electric Kona arrived in the morning, people assumed to volunteer. But no, she was just there to charge at the charging station. In future it might be a good idea to advertise on the charger (and Plugshare) that there will be an event on. Charles pointed out that advertising could be placed on chargers around the state, as NSW did for their EV conference in 2019. For an Elektrikhana, perhaps this form of advertising should be on petrol pumps!

Planning for Upcoming Events

- April 10th – [North West ecofest](#)
We're after volunteers for this show in Ulverstone. We'll have stalls inside and outside, so we can display two or three cars and our information boards/pamphlets.
- April 10th – [Top Gear @ The Rocky Cape Tavern](#)
This is a show where you can rock up and display your car. Minimum effort!
- April 18th – [Electric-Hybrid Vehicle Show](#) in Triabunna
Another show where you just turn up on the day.
- May 5th - 8th – [Agfest](#)
We have a large, prominent site this year and will need a significant compliment of vehicles, information boards, charging paraphernalia and other related 'stuff' to make it an interesting display. Suggestions in the meeting were:
 - Ubco 2WD farm bikes.
 - Harley-Davidson bikes.
 - Polaris ATVs (there will be one on the Australian Chainsaws Agfest site. Can we find someone who owns one?).
 - Crossfire ATVs (there will be one on the Van Diemen Dirt Bikes Agfest site. Can we find someone who owns one?).
 - Electric garden equipment such as lawnmowers.
 - EHT should be able to provide a charger. Hopefully wired up so that we can demonstrate the full charging process.
 - Buckby Motors have a large display themselves at Agfest, so they are unlikely to provide any vehicles for us to display. They sell MG, Jaguar, Renault and Volvo.
We might be able to get vehicles from Hobart dealers instead?

If you can think of an interesting display please let us know! Either something we can make ourselves or something from another organisation or business.

- AEVA has an 8x4 m marquee for the site. This is light and airy, not dark and dingy like the one we had in 2019. There is room in here for displays, and we have one booked from Tas Networks and one from Bennetts Petroleum.
- We are site sharing with [Farmers for Climate Action](#). They think that they will use a 3x3 m marquee. They will have volunteers on site to introduce their organisation to the Tasmanian public.
- It was suggested that the marquees should go towards the side of the site, as the cars, bikes and other equipment will hopefully draw people in. The actual placement will not be decided until setup time, as it will depend somewhat on what our neighbours look like and on the weather forecast.
- We have a three phase power outlet with our site. We need a breakout box to make this useful.
- It was pointed out that having members there who own vehicles is a strong point for AEVA. Vehicle dealers generally cannot provide the lived experience of owning a car or bike.
- We'll need lots of volunteers to run this event. The show is four days, plus set up in the days before and pack up the day after. Please let the secretary know if you can volunteer.
- Tickets are on sale now, are limited to 10,000 per day, and cannot be purchased at the gate. AEVA have purchased six 4 day passes for volunteers at a special exhibitors rate. These are specific to a person, so will be allocated to those who can spend the most number of days at the show.
- *Something I forgot to mention at the meeting is the ground cover. Does anyone have any large sections of carpet? This is good to lay over high traffic areas to keep the mud at bay.*
- May 12th – [Core Lithium Webinar](#)
See the link for details, this is an AEVA webinar. Core Lithium is a mining operation in Australia, and the presentation will discuss issues around lithium globally and locally.
- October 7th & 8th – **Launceston Show**
Launceston Show is this year to be held at Quercus – the home of Agfest. The grounds are larger than the show can fill, and so an idea is to hold an Elektrikhana or similar event at the same time. This can feed off the show advertising, which will need to be extensive to cope with the location change. If we can get an idea that we want to do something by May then we can advertise at Agfest (“come back here in a few months to actually drive these vehicles”).
Quercus has many internal roads in a grid pattern, and we might decide to rope some off to drive vehicles around. The roads are not long, and are unsealed, so this would not be a typical Elektrikhana with highway driving. Drives would be short and relatively sedate, but could be very frequent.
We might also be able to use the 4WD demonstration arena. This might suit the following vehicles:
 - Conversions, particularly the local Suzuki Mighty Boy and Subaru Brumby.
 - Mitsubishi Outlander.
 - Jaguar I-PACE.
 - Other 4WD vehicles being released this year.
 - Teslas might be ok, or might be best on display. The show is oriented towards families, and kids love Teslas! *Presumably a Porsche would also fit into this category.*
- Charger launch events?
This was touched on briefly, I'll include the description from last meeting's minutes: Clive suggests that the timing is good for a series of local events, at the sites of the operational public DC chargers. For instance our November meeting in Burnie attracted a group of locals as we met around the charger. This might not be suitable for every site (e.g. Derwent Bridge), but most sites are in good places to be a focal point for the local community to learn about EVs.

We could organise local AEVA members, plus the occasional enthusiast from further afield, to bring vehicles and gather to talk to locals. We could potentially run a BBQ and/or offer rides.

Contact the secretary if you'd like to be involved. Particularly if you'd like to help organise one or more of these.

The organisation shouldn't be too onerous, especially if shared between the sites, but points might include:

- *Set a date*
- *Create local advertising (posters, newspapers, Facebook)*
- *Contact the council and any other appropriate local organisations to see if they'd like to be involved*
- *Organise volunteers to attend with and without vehicles*
- *Contact the operator of the charging station to gain permission and invite representation*
- *Panel Discussion?*
This is another item from last meeting's minutes, included here in case someone wants to take it up:
John Fast suggested inviting the Tas charge network providers to a panel discussion where we can ask them questions. This might be difficult to do in person, but might suit a Zoom event. Please contact the secretary if you'd like to organise this.

And finally, a note from Midj:

" My BMWi3 got a flat tyre, not far from my home. As people may know, spare tyres don't happen much these days, having a tube of goo as a replacement provided the hole is neatly less than 4mm in diameter and in the tread. My flat tyre was a small gash in the sidewall. I put the car away and phoned the BMW dealer. They could fix it, but alternatively, could just give me the phone numbers for the providers they use in Hobart. I took the numbers and phoned. The first said, "Oh, no, we have none of those tyres in Australia just now". The second one said "Is it a rear or a front tyre?" It is a rear tyre. "Well, we have no front tyres available, but there is just one rear tyre available, it's in Sydney and it will take about 2 weeks to arrive." I ordered the tyre and spent 2 weeks driving my trusty old Toyota Corolla AWD wagon.

During this time, I also did some web browsing. Discussion groups spent time talking about run-Flats, whether BMWi3s have them, how worth-while they are, and ruining rims, and tubes of goo, and spare wheels. I had no ideas at all about run-flats. My Toyota has a spare wheel to replace the flat tyre you don't drive on. The BMWi3 manual was not terribly helpful in this regard. It certainly mentioned runflats and tyre pressure indicators. It also mentioned how to remove the wheel using the supplied jack. (I could find no jack). I phoned BMW dealer again, asking about jacks, and runflats. They said , "The jack is not supplied. But you can buy one separately. The car has runflats so you can drive on a flat tyre to the tyre place 8km from home with no trouble. Just don't go over 80kph." That's good. The tyre arrived, and I relayed to the tyre place my intention to drive on my runflats. The tyre fitter said "the new tyre is not a run-flat, definitely. It hasn't got RFT written on it so it is not a runflat. Full Stop. What does the flat tyre look like?" I said it looked like a tyre spread flat on the ground with a rim neatly on top. "That's not a runflat" he says "Flat runflats don't look flat".

Now, I do know there is only one manufacturer of tyres for BMWi3s, so my tyre had to be identical to the new one. So, my Toyota and I went and picked up the new tyre, dropped in to the local tyre place a few minutes walk from home, and organised for them to come to my house, remove the wheel, take it to their workshop, fit the tyre, return it to me and put it on. The first jack they tried didn't lift the car - maybe it wasn't very good. So they called to the workshop and another person with a better jack turned up - 2 cars and 3 people from the local garage to fix my tyre. It all got done. There were no more problems, and I'm back on the road.

I am now expecting to buy a spare wheel or just a spare tyre. I don't know if it's possible to get a discount on a set of four. But is anyone else in Tas with an i3 interested in doing a bulk buy of (front) BMW i3 spare wheels/tyres? Just in case we can get a discount on buying 4 perhaps?

If you'd like to get in contact with Midj for an i3 tyre group buy, you can email her at: mcjones0@gmail.com

Meeting closed 20:19

Next meeting: 19:00 May 26th at the Hobart Showgrounds. 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/>