

Minutes

Meeting of the AEVA Tas Branch
Hobart Showgrounds, 27/07/2022 19:00

Attendance

AEVA Members

Christopher Walkden (Secretary), Ray Johnston, Charles Gregory (Vice Chair), Clive Attwater (Treasurer), Shayn Harkness, Julie Hargreaves, Michael Wadsley, Penny Wadsley, Rosemary Grant, Margaret Kinsela, Tim O'Loughlin, Millard Ziegler, John Fast, Penny Cocker (Chair), Shreehari Nepal, David Craig, Midj Jones, John Bluhdorn, Jon Ettershank, Scott Ashton

Guests *(apologies for incorrect spellings, I blame handwriting or Zoom handle!)*

Anton Compton, Lynne Compton, Christopher King, Vaughan Barton-Johnson, Cathy Craig, Sabrina Fraser, Patrick Burke, Jim Mansbridge, Sue Webster, Philip Harrington, Colin Atkins, Darren West

Apologies

Trevor Wise, Ron Andersen, John Casimaty, Warren Boyles

Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

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

Correspondence in/out

Extract from email from Leigh-Chantelle, PhD Candidate (autonomous vehicles and blockchain technologies) dated 11/7/22.

Hi, Penny and Christopher.

I've been in contact with John Harris, Warrick Cathro, and Chris Jones from AEVA. Thought I would contact the other state committees.

I am doing a PhD on the pros and cons of autonomous vehicle roll out in Australia. Looking at electric vehicles as a precursor to these regarding the benefits and challenges.

See <https://www151.griffith.edu.au/redcap/surveys/?s=DXP8RYLX4L> or the poster attached for more info.

I'm looking for participants for my focus groups. Hoping you would be interested and can also forward onto others who might also be keen.

General Business

AEVA Tasmania

Treasurer's Report, 27/07/2022

Balance at last meeting: **\$608.84**

Since the last meeting -

Payments made:

Postage, EV tags **\$20.00**

Face masks **\$20.00**

RAST meeting rooms x 3 **\$225.00**

Total payments **\$265.00**

Income received:

none **\$0.00**

The current balance is **\$343.84**

Top up funds from National should bring the account back to about \$3,000. We will receive some contributions to AgFest costs but would need more to break even.

News

- Charles showed some slides, available here: [Charles' Slides](#)
 - Make sure you click through them all, they are in several sections. Including some that we didn't show at the meeting!
- Rob Valentine MLC has been asking for details on the number of EVs in Tasmania for many years now. This data was not available, since there was no registration category for electric drive. Early people registering their vehicles had to contend with the 'No. of Cylinders' question – where 'zero' was not an option!
Damian McIntyre wrote an [article for ABC news](#) in June, featuring our own Penny Cocker, which discusses some EV statistics for the state. The registration information is now included on the [Registration & Licensing Statistics](#) page on the Tasmanian Government Transport Services website. There are currently 1007 vehicles registered as EVs (*which presumably doesn't include EVs registered before the category was created*), including 112 motorbikes. Penny said that there have been about 41 EVs registered per month over the past 6 months.
- The Australian parliament introduced an EV support package on its first day.

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

- Penny gave an introduction to the company Electric Highway Tasmania (EHT):
 - The company was formed by a group of AEVA members who wanted to see public

- charging stations in the state. A company was formed to apply for various grants, and in 2019 the first successful grant was received.
- EHT has installed six charging locations so far, all with the help of the Tasmanian Government Charge Smart grants. Funding has also been received from a federal (ARENA) grant, and another round of Charge Smart grants.
 - Clive Attwater is the Managing Director, he spoke from this point.
 - By the time the grant money is spent, Tasmania will have a good public charging network. Today's vehicles could travel anywhere, and even a short range EV will be able to travel almost anywhere in the state on the public network.
 - Hobart will be served up another 10 charging locations thanks to the ARENA grant, which Clive says is a huge overkill. EHT is responsible for 5 of the new locations.
 - The latest state government Charge Smart grant focused on charging locations outside of Hobart, presumably in response to the ARENA grant.
 - EHT recently received Charge Smart grants for 10 new sites directly, and is providing services to a number of other recipients, primarily local government. This will result in EHT being responsible for about 15 new sites funded by Charge Smart.
 - There will possibly be some existing sites also 'offloaded' to EHT, as the existing operators realise the difficulty and expense of providing a reliable service.
 - EHT should therefore have about 30 charging sites by mid 2023.
 - The supply chain is frustratingly slow at the moment, for example a batch of chargers ordered in October arrived in July. So no promises!
 - There is an idea to install canopies over the EHT chargers in the future. Canopies would protect the chargers, prolonging the life of the investment. They would also provide some amenity for the users. However, a canopy requires planning approval, which adds time to the installation process. The current plan is to set footings into the concrete of new installations, so that a canopy can be installed at a later date. This arrangement should mean that the site opening date isn't delayed unnecessarily.
 - After the initial call for investors to create EHT, there have been two further rounds of investment. Under the constitution the existing shareholders are given first preference.
 - Chargefox purchased shares in EHT, and now NRMA has done so as well. Chargefox has now been purchased by Australian Motoring Services, which is in itself part-owned by NRMA.
 - Together, Chargefox and NRMA hold just under half the shares in EHT. The majority of shares are owned by local Tasmanian investors.
 - The directors are happy that Chargefox and NRMA are locally focused to an appropriate degree. The arrangement provides strength to EHT, with the sharing of technology and experience in both directions.
 - A question was asked about investment in EHT. Clive explained that the current expansion is fully funded, and so no further investment is planned at this time. However, it is projected that a single charger at a site is unlikely to be profitable, whereas three or more bays could be. Therefore future expansion of extra bays at existing sites is desirable, and perhaps further funding will be needed.
 - If you're interested in possible future investment, get in contact with Clive: contact@electrichighwaytasmania.com.au
- Hotel Bruny has installed a DC charger. This is the first DC charger installed funded under the new Charge Smart grants. It is also the southern-most DC fast charger installed in Australia.
 - A DC charger was commissioned at Waddamana power station yesterday. It is free to use, but only open during opening hours. The unit has CCS and CHaDeMo plugs, but the latter wasn't working on the day of commissioning.
 - Check [Charles' slides](#) for some more chargers, AC and DC.

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 is converting a Suzuki Mighty Boy. The motor has been removed, as it overspun during a previous 'incident'. It has been taken to a motor rewind place, who said that they can fix it, but it won't be cheap. Hopefully the required money is available through the college, although it may be cheaper to buy a new motor.

Christopher is concerned that the DC motor controller in his Subaru Brumby is old, and there are no ready replacements available to be purchased. There is an open source controller available to build yourself, and Christopher is considering doing so. It would be cheaper per unit to make more than one, so contact Christopher if you're interested:
secretary@tas.aeva.asn.au

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

- The recent EGM voted in the new AEVA constitution, paving the way for the organisation to move from an incorporated body to a company limited by guarantee. The main difference to our branch is that we need to call for nominations for a director. Directors from around the country form the National Council, which governs the company. Each branch can elect up to one director. We need to give 28 days notice before the AGM at which the election is to be held. We'll hold our AGM on the 28th of September, so notice will be sent out prior to that. If you'd like to be a director there are particular requirements. Contact the secretary for more information.

Planning for Upcoming Events

- August 5-7 [AEVA Conference and Expo](#) in Canberra
Charles, Tim and Clive are making the trip from Hobart. Tim is already part way there.
- August 20 [Snug Elektrikhana](#) Tickets available now!
New organisation Net Zero Channel contacted AEVA, wanting to put on an electric vehicle event in Snug in August. This concept developed into an Elektrikhana (EV test drive day). This is to be an AEVA event (primarily for insurance purposes), with NZC as a partner. Jon Ettershank volunteered to be the AEVA coordinator, and he is working closely with Richard Mount from NZC. Richard is an AEVA member, and he is one of several NZC members who own EVs.

The site is Snug Park, and it looks to be well suited to an Elektrikhana. NZC is supplying some volunteers, and we're asking for more volunteers through AEVA.

If you have a vehicle, you might like to volunteer to:

- Bring your vehicle to show in the static car show.
- Bring your vehicle and take people for rides.
- Bring your vehicle and offer it for people to test drive.

There are other volunteer jobs, including marshalling and taking registrations. There will also be signs and fencing to put up and take down.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact: Jon Jon Ettershank
<jon.ettershank@gmail.com>

- August 24-27: [Agfest](#)
Our site is 40x20 m, located the corner of South St. and Sixth Av.
We've formed a small committee to work on this.
 - We've decided to use the AEVA marquee for short talks. Talks might be perhaps 5 minutes long, and aimed at the new or would-be EV purchaser. Topics like 'how to charge your car'. If you have a topic suggestion please contact the secretary. If you can give the talk then even better!
 - Christopher is making a sign to put up on the street that looks like a petrol price sign. It will have Unleaded, Diesel, LPG and Electric prices, to use as a quick comparison. Hopefully this makes an impression even for people who don't drop in.
 - We decided that we need some posters with punch. The committee came up with some slogans, and Rose drafted some posters for comment. These were displayed at the meeting (not included here as they are not approved). Example slogans are:
 - Quiet Power – Torque to us.
 - Run on Sunshine – You know it makes cents.
 - It's cheapest to charge at home – Fill up while you sleep.
 The idea is that the posters will spark questions, rather than answering them. Hopefully this leads to conversations.
We're looking for more suggestions for slogans – please let the secretary know if you come up with one!
 - Ray has been contacting car dealers in Launceston, but it is proving difficult to find anyone with EVs in stock. Please contact the secretary if you can help talk to car dealers in Hobart.
 - Shayn has found some rubber mat that could be suitable to make paths on our site. Agfest can be muddy.
 - Because the car dealers' stock is so low, we'll be relying on our members to provide vehicles to show! Think about if you could spare your vehicle for one or more days of Agfest. We're after new vehicles and old, so that people can get a feel for what might be available.
- September 28 AEVA [Tas Branch AGM](#)
Please think about whether you'd like to be on the branch committee, including Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer or Secretary.
- October 6-8 [Launceston Show](#)
The show this year is at Quercus, the same place as Agfest. We've offered to run a mini Elektrikhana-style event, where people get to ride in an EV around a track. We need to think about whether we have enough volunteers to run this for the whole three days, or just one day. The Thursday is people's day, and is a public holiday in the north east.

Signage

In the November meeting it was approved to purchase four large signs. They have finally arrived, and you can see some photos on this page: <https://aeva.asn.au/register-of-equipment-tas/>

The fabric is permeable, to lessen the chance of them being damaged by wind. It also means that they are extremely lightweight. The material is easy to crease, so Christopher has found some PVC tubes to store them in.

These banners are somewhat translucent, so will be best on an opaque background like the marquee. The plan is to use rope through the eyelets to knit these into a cover to go over the marquee. This will need to be assembled when the marquee is being assembled.

Presentation

Sabrina and Patrick from Red Verandah Design spoke about their quest for a more economical and sustainable business vehicle, which resulted in their purchase of a Skywell van. See their photos [here](#).

We also held a New Owners Q&A, although there wasn't as much time as we'd hoped for since there was so much other interesting stuff! See the final few of [Charles' slides](#) for some information on charging etiquette (not shown in the meeting).

Meeting closed 21:01

Next meeting: 19:00 September 28th at the Hobart Showgrounds, this meeting will include our AGM. Please contact the secretary if you have a good idea for a guest speaker. 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/>

Links provided by members (since last meeting)

NW Politician Felix Ellis' podcast, this episode they discuss potential hydrogen production in Tasmania: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mm51eIPk13s>

Petition "Secure our energy future: Australia must implement Fuel Efficiency Standards": <https://chng.it/gHLC4gygyc>