

Minutes

Meeting of the AEVA Tas Branch
Hobart Showgrounds, 27/01/2021 19:02

Attendance

AEVA Members

Charles Gregory, Clive Attwater, Christopher Walkden, Julie Hargreaves, Ray Johnston, Ron Andersen, Michael Wadsley, John Harders, Phill Hinds, Shayne Harkness, Penny Cocker, Rhys Filbee, Ian Kilgour, Frank Leibfried, Charles Weston, Margaret Kinsela, John Harders, Bruce Hocking, Midj Jones, Damian Hope, Michael Bonny, John Casimaty, Stephen Daniels, Doro Forck, Andrew Cash, Roger Proctor, John Fast

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

Angelica Anderson, John Anderson, Sushila Desai, Richard Ormerod, Kate Johnstone, Trevor Wise, Christopher Allen, John Lennox, Roger Tidech

Apologies

Penny Wadsley, Warren Boyles, Angela McGowan, Rose Grant, Paul French

Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

Moved by Clive Attwater, seconded by Michael Wadsley that the minutes of the previous meeting (available [here](#)) be accepted as an accurate record; carried.

Correspondence in/out

From Phil Hrstich, Natural Resource Management Officer, Devonport City Council:

Hi Christopher,

I mentioned at the last AEVA meeting in Burnie, approaching the councils which I work for to put on a Test Drive Day. Devonport City Council have agreed for me to help organise an event and to have it near the fast charger at Level 1 at the Multi-storey carpark, corner of Best & Fenton St. It would be run under the banner of our living lightly program. I was thinking of involving the Rotary Club as they're experienced with running car events in Devonport.

(See below for more discussion on this)

From Tony Scott, vice president Bridport Innovations:

Hello Christopher,

Having been provided with your contacts by a mutual friend, Rose Grant, I would like to invite you or a representative of your association to a launch event for our new electric vehicle charger in Bridport.

Forgive me for not having full details of the type of facility, but I can tell you its installation has been auspiced by the local community advancement group Bridport Innovations, it is three phase and funded by the group, Dorset Council and the RACT.

(See below for more discussion on this)

General Business

Treasurer's Report, 27/1/2021

Since the last meeting -

No payments made.

Income received: Bank interest \$0.14

The current balance is **\$4,557.00**

Moved by Clive Attwater, seconded by Charles Gregory that the report be received; carried.

News

- New vehicle models (*AEVA's list is [here](#)*):
 - MG – currently in the Hobart showroom, you can take it for a test drive. This is the cheapest of the currently available new BEV cars offered in Australia.
 - A Mini Cooper has been seen in Hobart (by Charles of course). It is to be used as a delivery vehicle for a sushi place.
 - Mazda MX-30 is coming soon, the hybrid version first to be followed by the BEV.
 - A Hyundai Ioniq 5 has been seen driving in NSW with a big black cloth over it, presumably being tested in Australian conditions.
 - The [Aptera](#) is an interesting three wheeled vehicle with a 1600 km range. Seems unlikely that it would come to Australia.
 - E-Niro is apparently coming to Australia (we've been told this before!), perhaps as early as March.
- It seems that all of the Renault Zoes in Tasmania have been sold.
- Several state governments (not Tas) have proposed taxes specific to EVs. See the national AEVA response [here](#). Included in that report are links to an online petition opposing the idea, as well as a letter which you can copy and send yourself.
- The ACT has promised to introduce incentives including free registration and a \$15,000 interest-free loan.

Tasmanian Chargers

- There are currently 14 public DC charging stations (Fast Chargers) open around the state, with some more to come in the next few months.
 - The Swansea charger (EHT - 50 kW) should be online in the next couple of weeks.
 - The Brighton chargers (Evie - dual 350 kW) are going in now, completion probably a few weeks away.
 - The Westbury Evie site hasn't been started yet, it will presumably be next after the Brighton site.
 - There is a rumour that there might be a Tesla supercharger site to be built in Tasmania.
 - EHT are planning some 25 kW DC chargers, which are significantly cheaper to install.
- The average charging speed for DC charging is around 30 - 40 kW. *This was Clive speaking, so presumably he was talking about statistics from the EHT 50 kW chargers.*
- When planning your long BEV trip, you may like to remember that charging from 80 to 100% full on a DC fast charger will take about the same time as charging from 20 to 80%.
- Clive attended the launch of the Bridport AC Charger (January 19th) mentioned in the Correspondence section. Attended by the mayor and several other local people, none

of whom had had much (anything!) to do with electric vehicles. Clive gave a couple of rides in his Leaf and spoke to local media. Clive said that this small event was well worth attending.

The charger itself is a three phase type 2 outlet (no cable). They are charging a flat rate of \$10, and the charger is only available while the visitor centre is open. Details are on Plugshare [here](#).

- The Hobart Melville St. car park has a broken type 1 charger. Has been broken for some time, which means there is only one available. Nearby 15 A outlets were discussed.
- There is an AC charger available, and one installed in Hobart, which provides an extra level of protection against vandalism (*although at the cost of complexity*). The one in Hobart is required to be activated through the Chargefox network, at which point it will open a cover that otherwise covers the socket. The example installed in Hobart does not require payment, but this could be the case for some.

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, described as a two seater ute with a payload space suitable for one bale of hay (small square bale!). This is being converted to electric with the help of the Launceston Conversions Group. The 15 kWh battery has finally received its first charge, after sitting idle for about two years while the rest of the build was progressing. The charge was achieved after pushing the vehicle down the corridor to another department of the school that has 15 A outlets. Tomorrow's working bee will include getting the car back again, either under its own power or with the help of the group.

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, and so this group is inactive.

AEVA National

Clive attended an executive meeting last week.

- The SA branch is to hold the AGM in 2021, and is intending to hold a conference as well. COVID makes booking a venue difficult, as some venues require substantial non-refundable deposits.
- SA has very progressive EV policies, not counting the proposed EV tax, which seems unlikely to pass.
- It is ACT's turn for AGM next year. *Then WA in 2023, and Tas in 2024, the 50th anniversary of AEVA. This schedule may change if NT forms a branch.*
- The hard-working Bryce Gatton has retired from being the editor of the national newsletter, EV News. The executive is working on what to do about this, whether to continue the newsletter or do something else.
- It was decided that in the absence of a federal government target for the uptake of EVs, AEVA would run a campaign where people and businesses can make their own pledge. We'll ask people to sign up to a commitment that they will retire all ICE vehicles in their control by 2030. We'll collect their name, email address and postcode, and use that aggregate data to let policy makers know that there is support for EVs in their constituency. You can now make your pledge [here](#). Please spread this far and wide!

Reports on Events

- 27th November – **AEVA Online Conference [2020 EV Vision](#)**
All of the videos from the conference are now available. This is free if you attended, and there is also a post-conference ticket available (\$25) which gives you access if you didn't attend.

Planning for Upcoming Events

- 7th February **Classic Cars & Coffee** Georgetown.
- There is to be some kind of launch for the DC chargers that were subsidised by the Tas government. Probably mid-February.
- 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
- 5th - 8th May – **Agfest**
AEVA Tas has applied for a 20x20m site. We'd like to make this an 'EV Hub', and need help to fill the site with interesting things! If you know a business with something relevant to display please let the secretary know.
We'll be calling for volunteers closer to the event for various jobs including setup/packup, moving vehicles around the state, manning the displays.
- **Electrikhana** is our test-drive day.
As per the letter in the Correspondence section, Phil Hrstich has gained in-principle approval to hold a test drive day in Devonport. Since writing the letter, Phil has had the idea that this could be attached to the Rotary Devonport Motor Show. The DMS this year is to be an Expo with a limited number of vehicles that they bring in, rather than the traditional show where people bring their own vehicles. This might mean that we could run an Electrikhana at the same time in Devonport, potentially with the help of Rotary. Phil is following this up.
A question was asked about an electrikhana COVID plan. This might include wearing masks, and wiping down surfaces between passengers/drivers. Contact tracing would be provided by the signed waiver agreements.
- 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.

Q & A Session

Questions were invited from the floor, both of specific people and to the entire group. Some topics covered included:

- Test drives of EVs at dealerships.

- Dunn St. DC Charger has a \$20 per hour cost for time only. This was compared to other charging strategies.
- Faults with chargers were discussed.
 - The 350 kW Tritium units in Kings Meadows and Campbell Town have suffered a large number of faults.
 - CHAdeMO connectors can be problematic in that they can become stuck.
 - A common problem is that a connector might not be put back into the holster properly, which means the charger hasn't completed the previous charging session, and won't start a new one. This can be seen by the indicator lights once you know what to look for.
 - Sometimes these chargers can respond to a situation by rebooting themselves, which takes 5 minutes to complete.
 - Margaret and Christopher have both experienced the situation of not being able to remove the charging cable from their cars. Both called the help line and neither are really sure how they got their cables disconnected. Some vehicles have a physical toggle to pull which will disconnect the cable if all else fails.
 - Sometimes people (especially children) will press the emergency stop button on a charger. If a charger is not working it is worth looking for this button, as it can be reset by turning it (look for arrows on the button to indicate which direction).
- Queuing was discussed. Clive advised that only one queuing event has been identified so far with EHT chargers, which was at Derwent Bridge. *This is presumably since EHT started charging for charging, which was in January.*
- Clive was asked whether EHT would consider larger chargers, such as the 75 kW Tritium unit. Clive answered that EHT has an upgrade path planned. When queuing occurs at an average of one in 20 charging sessions, a new charger should be worth installing (i.e. be profitable to install). The exact chargers installed in the future will depend on what is available at the time, and reliability statistics will be taken into account. EHT are not tied to Tritium, they will look at all options.
- Andrew Cash still has his Ioniq weather shield available. An email was sent about this a few weeks ago, or contact the secretary for Andrew's details.

Meeting closed 20:50.

Next meeting: 19:00 March 31st at a location to be confirmed, but probably Launceston. See our [website](#) for a full list of meeting dates and locations as they are decided.

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/>

EV Related links that members have suggested (since last meeting):

Aptera: <https://youtu.be/QqVHo1aYXWI>