

Minutes

Meeting of the AEVA Tas Branch
Glenorchy Library, 24/05/2023 19:02

Attendance

Christopher Walkden (Secretary), Ray Johnston, Charles Gregory (Vice Chair), Clive Attwater (Treasurer), Julie Hargreaves, Michael Wadsley, Jon Ettershank (Director), John Bluhdorn, Penny Cocker (Chair), Laura Jones, Mikey Harriss, Margaret Kinsela, Colin Atkins, Penny Wadsley, Mark Grainger, Rhys Filbee, Bruce Hocking, Ron Andersen, Annick Anselin, Sue Webster, Jim Mansbridge, Colin Gordon, Tim O'loughlin, Mat Grover, Rose Grant, Andrea Persico, Ian Howard, Michael Bonny, Lynette Crawford, Jane Daway

Apologies

Shayn Harkness, John Fast

Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

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

Correspondence in/out

From Violette Snow, Senior Campaigner - Electrify Fleets, Greenpeace Australia Pacific:

Greenpeace Australia Pacific is an independent campaigning organisation that works on issues across the region focussed on climate solutions and environmental protection - particularly electrification, stopping the expansion of the fossil fuel industry and climate justice in the Pacific.

Our Electrify campaign is currently focussed on transport electrification with two pieces of work running in tandem on fuel efficiency standards and encouraging corporate fleets to shifting to zero emissions vehicles. The [Electrify Fleets](#) campaign website and the [Electrify](#) campaign site have more details.

We have an open call out for great case studies that we can bring to our millions of supporters nation-wide. We're interested in stories of people making the switch, particularly those travelling long distances in rural and regional areas, and companies including small businesses who have introduced battery electric vehicles and are loving it - particularly if they are also powering them with renewables through rooftop solar or power purchasing.

The case studies would generally be done in video, or with photos alongside a blog post. Let me know if anyone in the community would be interested.

Contact the secretary if you know of anyone who might like to be involved.

General Business

Treasurer's Report, 24/05/2023

Balance at last meeting: **\$379.75**

Since the last meeting -

Payments made:

Return of operating loan \$500.00

Reimburse for AEVA meeting food \$139.90

EV licence plate tags \$550.00

AgFest related expenses \$137.50

Total payments **\$1,327.40**

Income received:

AEVA national disbursement \$1,500.00

AgFest displays \$237.60

EV TAGS sold \$146.00

Rural Youth AgFest refund \$700.00

Total receipts **\$2,583.60**

The current balance is **\$1,635.95**

There are invoices for AgFest display outstanding to the value of about \$1,000.00 that should be received in the weeks ahead.

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 Mikey Harriss, carried.

News

Charles provided some [slides](#) as a summary of news from various sources.

- The Electric Vehicle Council has produced a 1 minute ad for electric vehicles. [Watch it here](#).
- The Mustang Mach-E is being released in Australia, Ford is taking orders now.
- There is a stamp duty exemption for EVs in Tasmania, and it expires June 30th this year. Charles wrote to the appropriate department to ask if it was being extended, and received a reply that if so, it will probably be announced in the budget, released May 26th.
- Tesla has submitted a plan for a Tesla showroom at Derwent Park. The plan is very brief, with few details.
- NRMA and the Federal Government are putting \$100m towards about 130 new EV charging sites. Date of 2025, which seems optimistic. Many of the locations on the map are conceptual, for instance the Tasmanian sites are Deloraine, Ross and the existing Kings Meadows site.
- Some local fast charger sites have opened recently, and some are coming soon, see the next item for further details.

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

Electric Highway Tasmania (EHT) is a small Tasmanian company formed by AEVA members to install DC fast charging throughout the state. It has received grants from Tasmanian and Federal governments. Clive Attwater is the managing director, and he made some points and answered some questions:

- EHT had a record month of charging sessions in April, which is typical for Tasmania. Clive was expecting a drop off for May, however it seems that May may be just as good or even increase.
- The Dunalley site had problems which were traced back to a fuse blown on one of the three phases that supplies the site. It turns out that the wrong size fuses had been installed by Tas Networks. The problem was difficult to track down partly because the charger continued to operate (poorly) on only two phases.
- The Fingal ABB charger (24 kW) was installed, and was operational, but then stopped working and had to be replaced under warranty. As is often the case this took longer than expected, in this case due in part to the replacement charger being delivered to the wrong place.
- The Sheffield site includes an AC charger and an ABB 24 kW DC charger on the same site as the previous two AC chargers. Julie (who lives near Sheffield) has been active online defending the site.
 - A clarification, these sites are of similar design, with an AC charger and an ABB DC charger. The AC and DC chargers can be used at the same time, but the DC charger can only charge one car at once. So if the DC charger is in use, you can use the AC charger (BYO cable).
- These 24 kW chargers have been installed at sites where it was anticipated that the usage would be low. Cygnet and Triabunna have exceeded expectations in this regard.
- A question was asked about AC chargers locking the cable in place, with one person having to turn the power off at an AC charger to release the cable. The cable is locked at both ends (car and charger), and this is theoretically controlled by the car. Christopher said that in the Hyundai Kona, the cable is released by unlocking the car, but only for a few seconds. If you don't remove the cable in that time it re-locks and you have to unlock again. If all else fails you can turn off the AC charger.
- Many sites have emergency stop buttons (red push button) and/or isolation switches (round switch). If a charger is turned off using one of these, it shows up as faulty in Chargefox. Mischievous children (of all ages) like to press buttons, so if a site is apparently not working, it may be worth checking that it is turned on. It can take five minutes to boot up again.

- EHT sites at Tullah, Smithton, Kingston and Glenorchy are in various states of works, it is possible that they may all be operational by the end of June.
- Hydro Tasmania has installed two 24 kW ABB chargers at Bronte Park, these are probably for their own fleet, and will not be made available for the public.
- EHT Sites at Miena and Cradle Mountain are waiting on Kempower hardware to arrive.
- Three EHT sites are due for expansion. Each site will need to be out of action for several days for the upgrades, so this work is planned for July, which is historically a slow month for charger usage:
 - At Burnie and Devonport, the existing Tritium chargers will be replaced by two Kempower chargers.
 - At Swansea, an extra Tritium charger will be installed back-to-back with the existing one.
- Electrona has opened a site at Bicheno, with much fanfare about the credit card reading facility. Ironically, Charles did notice that the CC reader was out of order recently (you can still use it with the Nextcharge app).

Tasmanian Conversions

We have Launceston and Hobart based email lists for people interested in converting vehicles to electric. Contact the secretary if you'd like to be on one or both lists.

Christopher purchased one of the Hyundai/Kia batteries currently for sale at Recycal Launceston. In summary, these are 5 kW hour batteries in a very neat 30 kg package. Being lithium batteries they must be used with a Battery Management System. Use without a BMS might be fine for a few (hundred) charge/discharge cycles, but eventually they could catch on fire! Detailed information is on this AEVA forum post: [What is this battery?](#)

National AEVA

- Jon Ettershank is our board member at the national level. He spoke about the national body developing consistent policies for AEVA, on topics such as the Road User Charge, Emissions Standards etc. The draft document for these policies is now available on the website [here](#). The intention is to survey the members of the AEVA for input in due course. If you'd like to be involved in the development of these policies and/or the survey please contact the secretary.
- The federal government has released a discussion paper on proposed fuel efficiency standards for Australia. The proposed standards, penalties and incentives are based on models from overseas, and would result in penalties and/or credits to vehicle manufacturers. The manufacturers would be able to trade credits to offset penalties. AEVA is developing a response to this paper, you can see the draft response [here](#). We would welcome help on this response, if you'd like to comment please contact the secretary, who can give you permission to comment directly on the document. It was noted that the Tasmanian Liberal government has expressed strong support for national fuel efficiency standards.

Reports on Events (follow the links for photos and videos of each)

- March 26 [Devonport Motor Show](#)
We only had four vehicles on display, but this fine day was very well attended with lots of interest from the public. Of particular note was the Ionic 5 charging the Subaru Brumby conversion!
- April 1 [NW Ecofest](#) (Ulverstone)
This was an Elektrikhana, where we take people for test drives. It was well attended by the public and by AEVA volunteers. It is well worth doing these events in the north west, as we reach local people who don't necessarily travel for events like this. Since NW

Ecofest itself is run by another organisation, our Elektrikhana is a relatively easy event for us to stage.

- April 16 [Triabunna Electric-Hybrid Vehicle Show](#)

This event is an annual affair at the monthly Triabunna market. Poor weather meant a poor turnout of patrons, but the indoor section meant that some good conversations could still be had.

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

We had a last-minute adjustment to our site layout, which meant we had a site 10 metres wide by 40 metres long. This meant frontage on both first and second streets. This layout seemed to work well, with good access from both streets. Our marquee was particularly valued on the Friday, with rain all day. Thursday and Saturday were both fine, with good patronage.

We had intended to populate the site with agricultural, industrial and commercial vehicles and exhibits, thinking that there would have been some more vans and utes available by now. The vans and utes did not eventuate, but we had a truck from JMC and Christopher's converted ute. Farmers for Climate Action also found a couple of well-used farm vehicles (a side-by-side and a farm bike) which made a good display. Tas Electric Vehicles had a good range of electric bikes.

We had a Tesla Y from rental company Sixt on our site. They have just purchased 100 EVs for Tasmania, and are not the only rental company to get into EVs. *Update – Sixt had 133 entries in their 'win a weekend in a Tesla' competition. The competition was drawn and none of us won. :(*

We didn't quite have enough volunteers for this event. This was partially due to several prominent people not being available due to illness. We had enough volunteers, but worked them hard.

Should we run a display at Agfest next year? It is still a good promotion to people who have not come across EVs before, but those people are becoming fewer. We are now much more likely to get people who know all about EVs, and are looking for the latest vehicles and information. Since vehicles are hard to obtain, and there are so many models now, we can't really display everything.

Perhaps next year we should run an Elektrikhana event instead of putting so much into Agfest?

Planning for Upcoming Events

- 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. Some ideas were floated at the November meeting, please see the minutes for details.

Nobody has yet volunteered to be on a committee to work on this idea. Please contact the secretary if you'd like to be involved. If we don't hear from anyone then it won't go ahead.

- [Know your EV workshop](#)

This beginners guide to EVs is an event planned by the ACT branch. Would we like to do something like this?

- Treasure Hunt idea (Charge-a-Thon?)

See the minutes from last meeting for details, Sean Manners is away at the moment and there are no updates to the idea.

If you have an idea or would like to be involved please contact the secretary.

- October 26 – 28 Hobart Show

Clive has received correspondence from the Hobart Show asking if we'd like to exhibit again. They are looking for early confirmation to hold a site. Last year our site was free, Clive will ask if it would be so again.

- November 3 – 5 [AEVA National Conference, EV EXPO and AGM](#) – Perth, WA

The WA branch are hoping that we'll drive (or fly) to Perth for this event to celebrate our 50th birthday! More information in [this article](#).

- 2024 (October or November?) Tas branch National AEVA Event
See the minutes of the last meeting for details on ideas. In summary, we're thinking of a large expo-style event in Hobart, focused on EVs, solar, home battery storage, home efficiency products etc. Plus a driving event to attract interstate AEVA members. Plus perhaps a conference to attract grants etc. for interstate tourism. A small organising committee has been formed, let the secretary know if you'd like to help:
 - An event this big could not be run only by our volunteers. Christopher investigated some event businesses, and found that it is possible to contract such a business to run an event for us. AEVA would take on the financial risk, and would own the event, while the event company would look after planning, sponsors, exhibitors, marketing, ticketing, labour etc. These contracts are typically quite flexible, so our volunteers could take up particular jobs, which should save us some money.
 - Penny investigated venues, including the Goods Shed (unable to commit to anything in that timeframe due to other plans for their site), MAC02 (pricey) and PW1. PW1 looks the most promising, with special rates for Non-Profits, breakout rooms that might be suitable for conference talks, a location that could be the takeoff point for test drives, and a central location near the Salamanca markets. Next step for the venue is an on-site meeting to discuss.

Presentation

Laura Jones gave an entertaining and informative presentation on bi-directional charging. View the presentation on Youtube here: [Presentation](#)

Meeting closed 21:03

Next meeting: 19:00 July 26th at the Glenorchy Library, Hobart. This meeting will include our branch AGM.

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):

- [The Australian Strategic Electric Vehicle Integration Project](#) (research into integrating renewable energy systems and electric vehicles)
- Article on [EV battery life](#)