

Minutes

Meeting of the AEVA Tas Branch
Glenorchy Library, 26/07/2023 19:04

Attendance

Christopher Walkden (Secretary), Ray Johnston, Charles Gregory (Vice Chair), Julie Hargreaves, Jon Ettershank (Director), John Bluhdorn, Penny Cocker (Chair), Mikey Harriss, Margaret Kinsela, Bruce Hocking, Ron Andersen, Rose Grant, Shayn Harkness, Sean Manners, John Fast, John Casimaty, Miilard Ziegler, Midj Jones, Jorgen Jorgensen, Scott Ashton

Apologies

Dave Davey, Michael Bonny, Penny Wadsley, Michael Wadsley, Warren Boyles

Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

Moved by Jon Ettershank seconded by Mikey Harriss that the minutes of the previous meeting (available [here](#)) be accepted as an accurate record; carried.

Correspondence in/out

From Greg Stewart 19/7/23 (on Facebook):

Hello there, I am from Launceston and North East Railway. Its a very long story so will keep it short as possible. I have built 3 x 4 wheel x 4 seat pedal vehicles to use on a 4klm section of our 14klm lease we have been given at Turners Marsh to Lilydale. We are about to become operational with the above vehicles we have called Railbugs. I now want to build a 6mt long light train, think simple straight chassis, flat tabletop with seats, and at the front and rear I will have a small area for drivers controls, we want to drive down the 4klms and without having to physically turn this around on a loop or turntable, the driver moves to the other end, the seats reverse, and back we go. I know very little on the electrical side, but am studying up on it all. I am hoping the whole thing with around 12 to 15 people sitting on it comes in all up around 2 ton. it only has to have a top speed of around 15 kph and each trip down and back would be under 8klms. Would be great to have enough battery life to go all day, maybe around 8 to 10 trips max, which isnt a lot of klms. Some advice on what motor, batteries, speed controllers etc etc to source would be great. I dont want to go off buying stuff and then have everyone say you should have asked someone first. Thankyou in advance.

General Business

No treasurer's report, as our treasurer is overseas.

News & Tasmanian Chargers

Charles provided some [slides](#) as a summary of news from various sources. Some notes on some of the slides:

- Idle fees are in the news, as Chargefox has just started a trial in WA. This is a fee to the customer while they occupy the space after the car has stopped charging. Previously the Chargefox billing system could not bill for this. Tesla has long had idle fees. EHT fees include a per-minute charge, and EHT has always asked Chargefox to charge this for the entire time that the car is plugged in, but it has not been possible up until now. So EHT is very interested in adopting this new feature of the Chargefox platform when it becomes available (presumably after the current trial). A separate idle fee has the advantage that in theory it could be charged to a separate entity, for instance where a car manufacturer offers free charging with the purchase of a car. The charging could be paid for by the manufacturer, with any idle fees charged to the customer. A similar situation exists for hire cars, which sometimes include free charging.
- There has been some news on the USA's adoption of the Tesla charging plug as standard. This does not affect us in Australia, as we have the CCS2 standard, which suits our electricity network.
- Tesla Superchargers have been spotted in Europe with some changes from the previous versions. Tesla Superchargers have previously only allowed charging of Tesla cars, but these changes are presumably to suit charging other brands of cars. They have longer cables to reach all points on a car, and some have RFID and/or Credit Card readers. Some countries look set to legislate that Credit Card readers are required on public chargers, so if Tesla is to comply it will need these features.
- VFACTs data for the first six months of 2023 has been released, and is available via the secretary if you'd like to see it. This data reports sales of new cars in Australia. Charles produced a slide which shows some totals for various car models and states. In the bottom table, the green highlight shows figures above the national average, and the green rectangle shows the highest in the land.
- The next slide shows proposed charging networks for WA and SA. Note that these are not joined on this plan, so the trip from east to west or vice versa is still tricky!
- The next slide shows an Ampol AMPCharge site between Sydney and Canberra. A Tesla 15 bay site is also planned, and as the Tesla site has received public funding, it will be open for all vehicles to use.
- Jacksons is building a Cupra showroom, and there is a Cupra Born in the state. Jon brought it to the meeting for people to have a look at. The showroom is due to open officially on 26 August at 28 Warwick St. Hobart.
- Some AC chargers are shown in the next slide, spotted in North Hobart. Not operational yet.
- There is a new app for the Evie chargers. It is not an upgrade but a new app, so make sure you download it separately. It is listed in Google Play as "Evie Charging (New)".
- Glebe Hill Shopping Centre in Howrah is the home for two new Evie DC chargers. This has Charles speculating on where the chargers funded under the ARENA grants for Hobart area are going. Five were awarded to Evie and five to EHT, but all locations are not yet known.
- The slide showing sites at Hamilton and Bothwell has reproductions of mockup pictures of proposed Electrona charger sites from the Central Highlands website.
- Devonport Motors has a 24 kW ABB charger available on the Chargefox network, open 24/7 according to Plugshare.com.
- One DC and multiple AC chargers have been installed by the University of Tasmania in Burnie. These are not yet online, but were installed with help from a government grant, so will be open 24/7.
- Photos from Smithton and Tullah show that these locations are in progress.
- Penny spoke to a tourist recently with a hire car Tesla, who could not get their car to

charge past 49% at the Sandy Bay EHT charger. It was suggested in the room that the car may have been set to limit the capacity – perhaps by the previous hirer.

- Julie spotted some 24 kW ABB chargers at Gowrie Park, for use by Hydro. These are not open to the public.
- Charles reported that the City of Launceston has reduced the price per kWh for its AC chargers at various places around the city. This was after people pointed out that the price they initially set was equivalent to a DC charger, but that the experience was not equivalent.

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.

Refer to the message in the correspondence section from Greg Stewart. Christopher spoke with Greg and gave him some advice about batteries, motors etc. The project sounds quite practical with only a modest motor and controller. Greg invited the AEVA out for a BBQ and to have a play on the Railbugs. Might be a good day once the weather improves.

National AEVA

Jon Ettershank is our board member at the national level.

- Planning for the Perth National Conference in November has been keeping the board busy.
- The Norwegian EV Association have offered to run a workshop aimed at improving the status and capability of EV associations like AEVA. The Australian workshop will be held on Thursday 2nd of November 2023, to coincide with the national AGM and conference. If you'd like to go to the workshop, AEVA is offering partial payment (up to \$2000 per branch) to help with travel and accommodation costs. Please contact the secretary if you'd like to travel to the workshop, even if you have previously done so (*he's a bit disorganised and has probably forgotten*).
- A proposal to invest in the Fully Charged Live event was discussed. It was eventually dismissed as being too high risk.
- The board will develop an investment policy to help guide such decisions.
- The board received a presentation from Wevolt, which is a software development startup from Perth WA. They aim to develop a phone app to aggregate all the charger payment apps in Australia into one system. They aim to have a single card or app to pay for every charger. AEVA is considering partnering with Wevolt to apply for an ARENA grant to develop this system.

Planning for Upcoming Events

- August 5 [Cars & Coffee at Kingston Park](#)
- August 19 [Cars & Coffee at Inveresk](#)
Both of these are events organised by TOCA, for all EV owners. Grab a coffee, chat with other EV owners and see what they brought.
- August 26 Glebe Hill (Howrah) [EV Experience Day](#).
Glebe Hill Shopping Centre is running a Family Fun Day, and AEVA have offered to have a presence, with some parked cars for display and some offering rides. Please contact Jon Ettershank if you can help with this event: jon.ettershank@tas.aeva.asn.au
- September 27 AEVA [Tas Branch AGM](#)
The AGM was planned for July, but was moved to allow appropriate notice to be given according to our new constitution.
Our ageing committee could do with a refresh! All positions will be made vacant at this AGM, so please consider if you might be able to take up a position. The positions are:
Chair
Treasurer

Secretary

Director

Ordinary committee member (roles are not fixed, but this year we had Vice Chair, Meeting Setup (Zoom), Website Content, Facebook, Events and Guest Speakers.)

If you have any interest at all please make contact. You don't need to know how to perform a role to take it on! If you are interested, but don't want to make a full commitment, an apprenticeship could be considered.

- October 12 – 14 Launceston Show

We have been offered a free site at the Launceston Show, similar to last year. Last year we ran rides for patrons around a track. We aimed mainly at children, and advertised it as 'Tesla rides for the kids'. This seemed to work well, and was well received by the organisers.

It was proposed that we do the same thing again, and again attend just the Saturday of the show. The organisers would like us to do something for the whole three days, but it is difficult to get volunteers to commit that amount of time.

We'll need to put up the AEVA marquee, both for branding and for shelter.

- October 26 – 28 Hobart Show

We have paid for a site at the Hobart show, it cost \$500. This is a static show over three days. We're not sure how much room we'll have, but we'll put up the marquee and have as many vehicles as we can fit. Showing dealer vehicles will be preferred.

- 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](#).

- November 1- 2 (2024) Tas branch National AEVA Event

See the minutes of the March meeting for details on ideas ([here](#)). 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.

We've settled on a venue, the big shed near the Salamanca market called PW1. This is a large, flexible building in a great position. They have very reasonable rates for non-profit organisations.

The date has been set as 1st & 2nd of November 2024, which is a long weekend everywhere in Tasmania except for Hobart. The days are not set in stone yet, but probably Friday & Saturday.

An event organising company will be essential to this event. Three companies have been approached, and were asked to provide information about their services by this meeting (July 26th). One of the three has done so, which may help us make a choice.

General Discussion:

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

Sean floated this idea at our March meeting, see the minutes [here](#).

The basic idea is of an AEVA-run event to raise money to help people who have trouble paying their electricity bills. The aims would be to raise money, raise the profile of AEVA, raise the profile of EVs, raise the profile of charging companies, involve some of the smaller communities which are hosting chargers, and to have fun!

Sean has approached the Salvation Army, which has a scheme to help people with utility bills, and they were encouraging.

Participants would pay to enter, perhaps \$10, and would receive a set of questions to answer. You don't need an EV to enter.

The first section of questions would be able to be completed from home. The second section would need participants to visit sites of charging stations.

Participants could also raise money, and would gain points for this.

There would be a time limit on answering the questions, but this would be quite generous

to allow people to enter without having to dedicate their entire life to the cause. Perhaps 3 months.

The culmination of the competition would be an event in one or more places. Prizes would be awarded for correct entries, and a raffle-type prize draw would ensure that people had a chance for a prize even if they didn't do well in the quiz part.

This is the bones of the idea, but it needs fleshing out. Volunteers are needed to help make the questions, find sponsors, market the event via social media etc., and to help with the event(s) at the conclusion.

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

- Know your EV workshop

This beginners guide to EVs was presented by the ACT branch. They charged a fee to cover venue costs. It was very well attended and they plan to do more.

Christopher contacted Ben Elliston, who said that the ACT branch are happy to share their notes with other AEVA branches. We'd need to adjust them slightly for our situation.

Topics discussed:

- Offering a workshop for new EV buyers, advertising through car dealers. Previously it has been difficult to get car dealers to offer anything to their customers, perhaps we could offer the dealer a share in the fee as an incentive?
 - Offering a (probably modified) workshop to EV dealers themselves.
 - Ray said that he has some materials for an EV dealer workshop, which could be combined with the ACT notes.
 - Offering a payment to the person or people taking the workshop, as a way to try to prevent (or offset) volunteer burnout.
 - Penny said that we should talk about this next meeting. Please contact the secretary if you'd be interested in presenting or helping out with such a workshop.
- Millard said that he would like to see AEVA concentrate on EVs in areas other than cars. Buses, rail and boating for instance, at the national and branch levels.

Meeting closed 21:00

Next meeting: 19:00 September 27th 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/>