

AEVA ADELAIDE BRANCH **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - July 2011**

This report brings to a close our third year since reconstitution as a branch.

The three years have seen a steady growth in our numbers, and, also pleasing, a steady growth in the number of EVs in South Australia.

This year's highlight has been the EV Conference and Expo last November. The event represented our coming of age as a branch. Not only did we mount the double event, but we really showed how it could be done. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

There were other less obvious benefits that accrued from the events. We made valuable contacts, and brought ourselves to the attention of Council and the State Government. This, in turn, has led to our inclusion in the consultative process on low-emissions vehicles.

This year's social events were at the Expo barbeque and Conference dinner. It is important that we continue to foster the social aspect of our association to keep the lines of personal communication and exchange open.

The City of Adelaide has unveiled its first charging point in the Grote Street car park, and it is being used. There are also two new "ChargePoints" installed in the Adelaide Central Market.

The Mitsubishi i-MiEV has been launch to much acclaim, and the announcements of other vehicles in the pipeline are almost weekly. As I said at the EV Conference, the tipping point has arrived, and we are on the eve of major changes.

The Branch had a presence at the Goolwa Gopher Gymkhana in March, with two cars on display. The event attracts media attention, and keeps us in the public view. It also features EVs (of sorts), and shows how efficient even tiny electric motors can be.

We watch with interest the attempt at the electric motorcycle speed record by member 'Spog' Stagbar. If he can pull it off, he will certainly attract media attention to EVs.

In the meantime, we have seen our members working away at the grass roots developing their own vehicles. Some of these have involved group workshops, which is very heartening, and an excellent example of the spirit behind the EV movement.

We have had a succession of speakers at our monthly meetings, giving practical advice on how to do it, and the process of getting approval for registration. This has been really useful to those who are preparing to build or have started. The process of sharing this kind of information saves countless hours of searching and reinventing.

It is a great joy to me to see that our attendance numbers at meetings continue to be so great. We usually have thirty or more attendees, and we do our very best to keep the meetings interesting and with a minimum of administrative minutiae. The question and answer sessions are lively and illuminating.

Our meeting venue has had to be changed due to factors beyond our control. We are still evaluating our new “premises”, and regret any inconvenience to members. The change has also meant that our meeting dates have changed. We welcome feedback.

EVs are not just for men, and I am pleased to see that more women are joining our ranks, not just as observers, but as builders and drivers too. I hope that we can increase our appeal to all sectors of the community, including young people, who are currently under-represented in our membership.

Of course, all this doesn't just happen. It takes the work of a dedicated group to work behind the scenes. My special thanks go to those who worked for months on getting the Conference and EXPO up, and to those who helped on the day. Thanks, too, to all our speakers and contributors, to our Committee and those who come along to meetings and participate.

I reserve special mention for Eric Rodda, our tireless Secretary. Without Eric's work, we would not function as we do. We do not always see the many things he does to keep everything on track, but I could not have done my job without him.

I also acknowledge the support of my wife, Jane, who supports and bears my goings on with great patience.

Finally, I hope you have all enjoyed the year. I have.

Edward Booth