

AEVA SA Chairman's Report 2016-17.

The world of electric mobility is changing . Worldwide there is a constant flow of exciting new releases and announcements. It looks like the mass uptake of EVs will finally take place, probably quicker than we think.

Here in Australia the uptake is much slower, primarily due to the lack of Federal Government incentives. It seems though, that this is changing, with State and Local Governments touting the need for adoption and in many cases investing in infrastructure etc.

Here in South Australia we had a blackout over a year ago, and although pretty devastating at the time, it seems to have focused people's attention on energy and energy supply reliability, with some very exciting outcomes. In some respects it has hurried along the shift to renewables and how they can be integrated successfully into our grid.

Coupled with this is electric mobility and the role EVs play in the transport mix, sustainability and the need to reduce our carbon footprint.

It's almost a perfect storm for change.

Branch activities.

When we reflect on the past year, as a Branch we have been very busy and productive.

To start with, our Branch meeting have been very full and interesting.

We have had a wonderful array of speakers covering many of the following topics:

- Electric bikes
- Conversions in general and charging
- The Conservation Council and their role
- Adelaide to Zero initiative.
- SA Power Networks and electric vehicle charging
- Flinders University World Solar Challenge project.
- Converting modern cars
- The Tesla model X.
- What next in mobility- Electric buses and more.

All of these presentations have touched on different elements and provided pointers to the future.

We have also been able to see what members have been working on, with people providing up-dates on their projects and conversions. Thank you to everyone who has shared their projects with us.

As we use our vehicles we come across issues and problems, such as charging points and repairs etc so it's great that we take the opportunity to share our experiences.

Communications is a vital part of what we do. Eric does a wonderful job in maintaining and updating our Branch's web page. David had been doing a wonderful job in establishing and moderating our Facebook page.

We also completed a promotional video, which is featured on our web page. Special thanks goes to Environmental and Science Media for their support in the production of the video and to all those that took part. It has proven to be a great introduction to what our Association does.

At our meetings we also have access to the Branch's library. Thanks to Chris Hickey for managing this and keeping it up to date.

The big activity for the year has been hosting the National AGM last October. This was a great success with top class speakers at our conference, productive meetings and tours, a very enjoyable conference dinner and a wonderful display in Elder Park.

A big thank you to the organising committee, our sponsors and in particular Eric for his skill and commitment to the event, drawing all the pieces together to ensure it was a great success.

At the meetings, there never seems enough time to catch up with everyone. To overcome this we run member catch ups at different people's houses. This is a great way to socialise get to know each other. Thanks to Eric for hosting one of these events.

We also held a successful event in Gawler as our end of year roundup. This included a display of our vehicles, which was well received by the community.

Supporting other events.

Beyond what we do as Branch activities, we have also attended a number of different events.

The events we attended included:

- Science Alive
- Makers Fair
- World Environment Fair
- World Environment Day at Thebarton Senior College
- Gravity Festival at Macclesfield
- Gawler Sustainability Fair

All these events generated a lot of interest and conversations and in many cases was the first opportunity for people to get up close to an EV.

Charging.

A big concern for many people when they think about purchasing an electric vehicle is having access to charging points when they are out and about.

The Branch has been very active in this area including attending the launch of the Electric Highway on the Fleurieu Peninsula, plus also encouraging further expansion of the network in the Adelaide Hills and through to Gawler and the Barossa Valley.

We have also been working with caravan parks, hostels etc to put in charging points. This is an ongoing project and is reaping successes. Thank you Sally for taking on this initiative.

Initiatives

Our Branch is also playing an important role in large projects and initiatives. Our collective knowledge and involvement in this space is being seen as being important ingredient in these proposals. It also matches in with our Association's charter.

Our members have been involved in the following;

- Investigations into the establishment of an electric car conversion 'enterprise', potentially based at Tonsley. This would provide an option for people wishing to do a conversion
- Supporting the hosting of the Formulae E in Adelaide. This would be a wonderful event to host and would provide many, many economic and social benefits for our State
- Supporting an ARENA grant, being proposed by the company EVengri. The proposal revolves around education and awareness to counter the barrier to purchasing an EV. If this project is funded it could ultimately see a large uptake of EVs in our State and then nationally.
- Potentially being part of a larger motoring event in Victoria Park which would showcase a range of 'high-end' vehicles.

So plenty of projects and proposals to keep everyone busy.

Finally.

Our Branch is seen as the organisation to contact about electric vehicles in our State. We get a constant flow of enquires about conversions, issues around charging, etc etc.

We continue to play a critical role in advocating for the uptake of electric vehicles in our State.

Finally, thank you to all the committee, and all their input. Without this, organisations like ours, simply can't function.

So, the last year has been very full and fun year.

Paul Koch

19th July 2017.