

## **AEVA ADELAIDE BRANCH** **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013**

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

The five years have seen a steady growth in our numbers, and, also pleasing, a steady growth in the number of EVs in South Australia. The Adelaide Branch is now the largest in Australia (by about 2), and this demonstrates the interest in all things EV here in SA.

This year's social events were at the Amped Up barbeque and display at Gawler, as well as two social gatherings at Eric Rodda's home. It is important that we continue to foster the social aspect of our association to keep the lines of personal communication and exchange open.

Electric vehicle uptake has been fairly slow, but there are few days when I do not see one going about its business. The lack of clear direction by all levels of government, and the lack of incentives to embrace the technology have not helped.

We watch with interest the electric motorcycle speed records being set around the world.

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 at the Directors Hotel has settled down successfully. The pre-meeting dinners are a wonderful networking opportunity.

EVs are not just for men, and I am pleased to see that more women are continuing to join 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.

We have continued to have a stand at Science Alive, and we also had one at the Uraidla Sustainability Fair. They are a fertile recruiting opportunity for new members, and they help to bring EVs to the public attention.

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 on getting the field days up and running. 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. Every year, I marvel at his sheer dedication and endless determination to make our meetings interesting.

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

July 2013