

AEVA ADELAIDE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015

2014/15 has seen us continue to grow. At the time of writing, we have 100 members, which makes us only second to WA for size.

Attendance of our monthly meetings continues to grow, which is a good measure of our relevance. This is a tribute to the splendid program that Eric has put together for us month after month, and also to the willing participation of those attending.

The practice of keeping official business brief, and concentrating on the “interesting stuff”, has continued to keep the meetings relevant to those present. I believe (hope) that the segments on members’ projects have served as inspiration to all. Certainly, the number of builds completed has been impressive.

The aims of AEVA are broad, and include more than the building of EVs at home, but, by my observation, this remains the main interest of our members. As a result, we have concentrated our meetings on this aspect. This is shown by the steady increase in the number of people who arrive at meetings in an EV.

We have increased our lobbying activity with both State and Local Government. A working group has been hammering away to get involved in the provision of charging stations both within the metro area and beyond. We have had correspondence with both levels, with a meeting with the Minister for the Environment as part of the Adelaide Green Zone initiative.

Perhaps the most encouraging progress has been made with Local Government. The Alexandrina Council has expressed interest in installing charging stations, and concrete proposals are going forward at the time of writing. It appears that our first electric highway will be to the south of Adelaide, although we hope for further routes in the near future. Time will tell.

There is still a depressing lack of incentives being offered by State and Federal Governments to help early uptake of EVs. This, in turn, has seen the supply of EVs on offer drying up. We hear talk but see no action.

The range of hybrids available is slightly increased and PHEVs are becoming a little more common.

The issue of range is being addressed by improvements in battery technology and we hear news of imminent improvements. As yet, there are no new technologies available to us, but we live in hope. Lithium Sulphur seems to be but a step away.

The lack of leadership by Federal Government remains our greatest hurdle. They have done little to encourage the use of EVs both by offering no incentives as is done in almost every developed nation, and taking no initiative in encouraging the necessary supporting infrastructure. This means that Australia will continue to trail rather than

lead in what promises to be the next major development in road transport globally. We all need to do whatever we can to change their attitude. In the mean time we will work with Local Government where the greatest interest appears to lie, and all credit to them.

The Branch has managed well financially, and we have been able to pursue our programs without embarrassment. This is subject to a separate Treasurer's Report. It is sufficient to say that we are solvent, and in good shape for the future.

Our external programs and participation include the popular Meet-ups, various Field Days, and Science Alive. These events not only get our message out, but provide the social interaction that creates the networks and camaraderie so important in keeping a group together and on track. I really appreciate the effort by those members who have mounted our various displays.

It now remains for me to thank all our office-bearers for their support, particularly Eric Rodda, our tireless Secretary. Eric has, once again, done the heavy lifting, and without his work the branch would not be the vibrant one that it is. Thanks also to all our members who have made the meetings and events work, the working groups who have toiled behind the scenes, and, finally to my wife, Jane, who has supported me with counsel and comfort, and put up with all my comings and goings.

Edward Booth
AEVA Adelaide Chairman
June 2015