

Chairperson's report 2017-2018.

This year has again been a very busy time for the Branch and AVEA in general.

The next generation of EV appear to be just over the horizon (again), as we all wait in anticipation. We have experienced a number of false dawns already, but this time, I think, there will be a host available very soon. This would be a great outcome and will create a challenge for our organisation as we lobby on behalf of EV owners.

An indication of the coming wave of EVs, we saw the installation of public charging facilities gain traction, notably, the establishment of a charging hub in Franklin Street, plus others around the City of Adelaide precinct.

As a Branch, we have continued to have our monthly meetings that are well attended, always with interesting guest speakers. These speakers give us an insight into the future that is coming. Thanks to Bruce for organising the speakers. It's not an easy task firstly identifying suitable speakers, then coordinating times etc.

We have been present at a number of community events, including Science Alive, World Environment Day events and the Gawler Sustainability Fair. We also hosted our end of year event. All of these events allow us to spread the news around EVs and EV ownership.

We had a trip down to Goolwa, with the group being hosted by Edward, who was able to detail his new home charging and storage setup. This is definably the way we are moving to, in the future.

Although not a direct Branch activity, a number of our members are instrumental in driving forward the group, ConstructEV. This group is looking at the processes etc. around EV conversions. It is great to see an allied venture develop out of the activities of AEVA.

The possibility of hosting a round of the Formula E here in Adelaide is still on the cards, with a number of our members supporting the existing organising group, who are building further on a business case.

Last year's AGM in Tasmania was well supported by our Branch, with seven vehicles, five BEVs and two PHEVs, driving across to Devonport. It would be fair to say it provided its challenges, especially with the charging network being in its infancy, but each took it all in their stride.

It was great to see the contingent of SA vehicles at the event and they were able to participate in the vehicles display on the foreshore at Davenport, plus the Cradle Mountain Charge.

Also Sally picked up the prestigious Glenn George award, well done.

Jeff and Pauline towed their caravan across with their Blade, and most likely set a new Australian record for towing a caravan with an EV. (This needs to be followed up to be verified)

The groups were also able to help building awareness of charging facilities and encourage business to offer facilities. A number of business on route to Melbourne now offer EV charging as a direct result of the group's collective effort, and championing the cause.

A great outcome all round.

Undoubtable the biggest event we hosted was the Green Drive Day we held in April. The event was part of the Charge Together program with was funded in part by ARENA, with a major contribution from EVenergi, who are running the program. There was also support from SA Power Networks, Government of SA and the Adelaide City Council. Our role was to run the Green Drive Day. We have

great support from Hyundai, Renault, BMW, and Mitsubishi, who provided vehicles for test drive, as well a private company (myCar) providing a number of Teslas, also for test drives
Mic Chapman, from MiCycles – Adelaide Electric Bikes, in conjunction with the Bicycle Institute of SA, provided a large range of e-bikes that people could test ride.

Electron Motors, a new entrant in the EV vehicle market, displayed their electric scooter, which was also available for test rides.

The event was also supported by a number of trade stands, which provide many of the goods and services needed to support an EV.

There was also a series of talks on offer, which ensured many of the facets of owning an EV were covered.

The event was officially opened by AEVA National President, Mr Greg Partridge with addresses from City of Adelaide Mayor Martin Haese and SA Senator, Mr Tim Storer.

Overall we had over 400 people be part of a test drive of a car, or test rode an e-bike or e-scooter. It is these experiences that for many, are the tipping point to move on to purchasing an EV, scooter or e-bike. The Branch is planning to have a similar event annually.

The day was a great success and it was all down to the wonderful support provided by our members. From taking on the role as a traffic marshal, staffing different booths, managing the vehicle changeover area, delivering a presentation, being part of the set up and pack down etc.

In particular a number of members were happy to take people for rides in their EVs. This was a vital part of the day as the test drives across the day were fully booked, and it provided another avenue for people to experience an EV. Most importantly, it provided an opportunity to talk to an EV owner about the practicalities of owning an EV and how it seamlessly fits into your normal day to day routines. This is one of the best ways to bust the myths around owning an EV.

So, a big thank you to all everyone for the support on the day; we are starting to see the results of that day filtering through now.

Our Facebook page continues to gain new members, and is a great way of keeping people informed. Thanks to David Cann for being the administrator of the site.

Thanks to Eric, who maintains our web page, which keeps all our records etc. up to date and accessible.

Special thanks to the Committee, Sally, Eric, Edward, Bruce, Denis, Bob, Blake and Terry. We have held committee meetings every second month, plus there were extra meetings leading up to the Green Drive Day. The committee has been very busy ensuring the Branch's activities keep rolling along.

Finally, thanks to all the Branch members who attend meetings, providing support and input. It is the enthusiasm of the members that makes the Branch a success.

Paul Koch
Chairperson
AEVA SA.

18th July 2018.