

Victorian Electric Vehicle Enthusiasts Drive Australia's Green Revolution

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In the bustling heart of Melbourne, a quiet yet powerful revolution is gaining momentum. The Victorian branch of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) is charging forward with a vision: to make electric vehicles (EVs) an everyday reality in Australia. As electric cars zoom quietly through Melbourne's city streets, the AEVA Vic branch is working tirelessly behind the scenes to accelerate the adoption of sustainable transport across the state.

The AEVA: Who Are They?

AEVA is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 1973, long before EVs became a trending topic. The Victorian branch is part of a nationwide movement, driven by dedicated volunteers from a wide array of backgrounds. They come together with one mission – advancing electric mobility. The Association serves as a central hub for EV enthusiasts, from early adopters and tech-savvy engineers to everyday commuters eager to escape the clutches of petrol prices.

What sets the AEVA apart is their grassroots, hands-on approach. It's not just talk; it's action. They hold regular meetings, organise EV events, and collaborate with local councils to push for better charging infrastructure. Plus, their members are always ready to share the nitty-gritty details about their own experiences, whether it's troubleshooting a home charging station or discussing the nuances of regenerative braking.

EVs in Victoria: Where We Stand

Victoria has been a mixed bag when it comes to EV uptake. On the one hand, state policy has begun to recognise the importance of clean energy and sustainable transport. By 2030, the Victorian government is aiming for half of all light vehicle sales in Victoria to be zero emissions vehicles – a step in the right direction. But then came the much-debated EV road tax, a world-first fee on electric vehicles for every kilometre driven. Christopher Vanderstock and Kathleen Davies (Chair, AEVA Vic) in a High Court of Australia action, challenged the constitutional validity of the tax, and won.

Yet, despite the challenges, the enthusiasm for EVs in Victoria is electric. According to AEVA Vic, their membership has surged in the past few years, reflecting the broader global trend. The branch is now working with councils like the Manningham Council and the City of Boroondara, where EV charging stations are popping up in shopping precincts and along major roads.

The Road Ahead

The challenges of transitioning to EVs aren't just technical. They're social, political, and cultural. For AEVA Vic, part of the battle is dispelling myths around EVs, such as 'range anxiety' (the fear of running out of charge) or misconceptions about their cost. With new models hitting the market and battery ranges improving, the association argues that now is the perfect time for Victorians to make the switch.

They're not wrong. Global giants like Tesla, Hyundai, and BMW are all pouring resources into making EVs more accessible, and AEVA Vic wants to make sure Victorians aren't left in the slow lane.

Behind the Scenes: Meet the AEVA Vic Members

Members of AEVA Vic are a diverse bunch, united by their passion for electric mobility. Take Virginia, for instance, who drives a Volvo XC40 Recharge. She joined AEVA to connect with like-minded people and share her passion for the EV revolution. Or Bryan who converted a Toyota LandCruiser into a fully electric vehicle as a personal project. The group also welcomes people who don't yet own an EV but are eager to learn more.

At its core, AEVA Vic is about more than just cars; it's about community, education, and paving the way for a sustainable future. With the climate crisis looming, the work of groups like AEVA is more critical than ever. Their message is clear: the electric vehicle revolution is not just coming – it's already here. And if the AEVA Vic branch has its way, soon all of Victoria will be driving into a cleaner, greener future.

To find out more about AEVA, go to their website at <https://www.aeva.asn.au/> or email the Chair Kathleen Davies at chair@vic.aeva.asn.au or the Secretary, Rick Molloy, Secretary at secretary@vic.aeva.asn.au.