

## MEETING

22 February 2009

### ELECTRIC VEHICLE SEMINAR

Electric Vehicles New England (EVNE) held their first public seminar about electric vehicles last Sunday, 22 February. The talk was well attended and included visitors from Moonby and Bellingham. There was even one visitor from Cornwall in the UK. Martin Hogan and Tony Dudgeon, organisers for the Bellingham Renewable Energy Fair were there. Martin was noted as saying "it has so much power and costs so little to run. My car costs a fortune to service and fill with fuel and it's only going to get worse. I want an EV. Imagine a solar powered charging station in every carpark". The Boltons and the Cookseys have been invited to show their cars at the Renewable Energy Fair on 30 May.

Nathan Bolton of Convert-Ur-Car in Sydney gave an informative talk which included everything from the regulations regarding the conversion of cars to electric to debunking some of the most common myths about EVs and which cars make good conversions. On display were the Cooksey's electric Ford Capri and Nathan's electric Hyundai Excel Sprint, "Sparky".

Nathan stressed the point that "You should design your electric car around your life style, don't design your life style around your electric car. Electric conversions are individual and purpose-built to give each owner the best value for money." Nathan also said that any vehicle can be converted to electric, from cars to trucks to vans. However, to get the best performance and range you should pick the lightest vehicle you can. Examples are the Daihatsu "Charade", the Suzuki "Mighty Boy", and the Holden "Scurry" van. His talk stimulated a lot of questions from the audience and finished outside with small group discussions around the two EVs.

EVNE would like to thank Chris Mitchell for his gracious donation of the Pembroke Recreation Room. Electric vehicles fit right in with his commitment to the environment which includes solar heating for the Pembroke swimming pool.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of EVNE will be 21 June at 291 Beardy Street from 3pm to 5pm.