

# White Ribbon Signal



**WCTU** | Woman's Christian  
Temperance Union  
*Drug Free Life*



## Message from the President

WCTU Australia continues to 'promote a drug-free lifestyle and Christian values in the home and community.' This is our mandate and guide. We will not change it. We are determined, by God's grace to do all we can 'For God, Home and Humanity' - our motto. Our emblem is the white ribbon bow badge and we wear it with pride. Any person who signs the pledge which says 'I promise, with God's help, to abstain from alcohol, tobacco and all other harmful drugs' and pays the annual membership fee, can be a member. If you want to be part of this organisation that has existed for 138 years in Australia and help make a difference for the nation, please join us. By being a member you are - supporting drug education in schools, providing literature and social media posts for thousands, helping eliminate violence of all kinds, addressing the government on issues relating to the SAD (smoking, alcohol, drugs) poisons and making an impact across Australia that can change lives. **WE NEED YOU.**

Joy Butler  
President WCTU Australia Limited



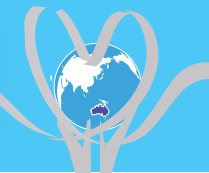
## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Save the Date!

- September 9  
International FASD Awareness Day
- September 28  
WCTU Day of Prayer - Frances Willard's birthday
- October 2  
World No Alcohol Day

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The newly purchased property that we now own is proving to be a blessing!



WCTU NEWS FROM ALL  
CORNERS OF THE WORLD

## In Memoriam

DAWN GIDDINGS AND THELMA PAYNE



*Official Publication of WCTU Australia - promoting a drug-free lifestyle and Christian values in the home and community.*



## WORLD NO ALCOHOL DAY - OCTOBER 2, 2023

World No Alcohol Day is held on October 2nd. As its name suggests, this holiday aims to spread awareness of the negative effects of alcohol. Excessive drinking potentially leads to violence, irresponsible behavior and driving, causing accidents and injuries. According to WHO, the harmful use of alcohol is responsible for 3 million deaths annually. In addition, regular consumption of alcohol is linked with high blood pressure, liver disease, stroke, and diverse types of cancer. India originally proposed the observance during the World Health Assembly in Geneva in 2008. The date marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of nonviolent resistance in 20th-century India.

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## PRAYER MATTERS

Mavis Gerrish, member of Newcastle Circle Union, reminded us of Barnabas, who is known in the Bible as the Encourager - Acts 11:23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. Let us encourage one another in prayer, purpose and faith in the beautiful work of WCTU and spreading the message of Jesus, which is our only hope.

- Victoria and their meeting on September 8
- Cooranbong/Newcastle and their meeting on September 11
- Our children and youth departments - for strong leaders and that God will bless and guide our young people to keep them from all evil
- World WCTU leaders and its future
- Literature and message to be shared in Alice Springs
- The developing WCTU Australia website
- Letters and petitions to the government

Join us on the first Tuesday of every month to pray. Join the zoom prayer meeting at 9.00am. Just send your email to Joy Butler.

Remember to pray every day at 12 noon - this is a long established prayer time for WCTU worldwide..

Dawn Giddings - Dawn was a member of WCTU South Australia for 52 years. She served as President of Brighton, Adelaide Union for 37 years; President of South Australia State Union for 30 years; Field Officer for South Australia for 20+ years; 2nd Vice President for WCTU Australia for 20 years and

National President for 5 years. Dawn's contribution extended to the World WCTU where she was Vice President for 9 years; Education Department leader for 3 years; Field Officer for the Pacific region for 12 years.



Dawn travelled widely into the Australia Outback where she presented the message to schools, women's fellowships, churches, youth groups, camps and Aboriginal settlements. She oversaw social welfare projects including 'We Care Boxes' for families who suffer from unexpected loss of a family member through accident, suicide or murder. Dawn was a gentle persuasive mentor and believed in the power of prayer. She was a woman of great faith and excellence.

## In Memoriam

Thelma Payne - Thelma was a member of WCTU West Australia for 40 years. She joined the Freemantle



Union and held office as Vice President and other duties. She was passionate in educating children. One of her highlights was to see the winning children at the Speech competitions at state conventions. She was active in her church and community and had no 'spare time'. Thelma applied for a grant from the Road Safety Council

of West Australia who granted funds to display their banner for motorists at the annual Christian pageant. The banner was titled 'It's Never Ok to Drink and Drive'. The grant helped WCTU offer non-alcoholic wine-tasting as an alternative to alcohol drinks. She wore her white ribbon badge with pride and was able to share the WCTU message widely. She was a gentle Christian lady who worked tirelessly for the Lord.

## NEWS FROM ALL OVER

For news about WCTU in other parts of the world - [CLICK HERE](#) for International affiliates - Australia, Finland, Germany, India, South Korea, New Zealand, USA, United Kingdom.

This is on the USA website and here you can connect to other national websites. It is great to know we belong to a world-wide network of people who share in the work of temperance. We are united in our love for God and Humanity.

**GET INVOLVED! JOIN US  
BECOME A MEMBER OF WCTU  
[CLICK HERE](#)**

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## VICTORIA

WCTU Drug-Free Lifestyles in Victoria has been busy. Last year, members and friends knitted about 450 beanies for premature babies and these have all been given to various hospitals. More caps are needed so knitting continues.

Dawn Stark, our Drug Ed Presenter continues her work in primary schools. As usual, the response from teachers was most encouraging. One wrote "Very appropriate. Detailed enough without being gruesome. Perfect. Interesting voice and movement. I would recommend it to anyone."

Dawn has been emphasising the dangers of vaping and we have recently produced a new information leaflet printed. All students receive this. Copies of the Vaping leaflet are available from our Victorian office.

Our annual outreach luncheon will be held at the Ringwood Salvation Army on Friday September 8th. The Guest Speaker will tell of her personal struggles with gambling and her work in helping others to overcome this addiction.

*Anne Bergen, President*

## NEWCASTLE/COORANBONG, NSW

The few faithful members of the Newcastle group continue to meet at Warners Bay. They are active in donating items for 'Our Backyard Macquarie Care' for homeless people. They share literature and pray for the ongoing work of WCTU.

The next meeting will be at Sunnyside, Avondale Road, Cooranbong on Monday, September 11 at 10.00 am. Pastor Sau will share his testimony about his persistent praying mother.

*Heleen Palmer and Joy Butter*

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The newly purchased property that we now own is s proving to be a blessing and we expect God to do great things as we share literature and love with the young people who stay here. We believe God led us to this project.



Our tea rooms continue to be an excellent avenue for outreach in the community of Adelaide. The re'll be more news as we proceed.

*Karen Edwards, President*

## HISTORY SNIPPETS - No. 3

### Our Godly Heritage

The temperance cause was intertwined with the campaign for votes for women in New Zealand in the 1880s and early 1890s.

At the time all women were denied the vote, along with 'juveniles, aliens, lunatics and criminals'.

Kate Sheppard, the WCTU's national franchise and legislative WCTU department's superintendent was a woman of courage and persuasion, filled with energy, passion and commitment to the aims of WCTU - For God and Home and Every Land. The WCTU had been established in 1885. They believed, along with some others, that if women had the right to vote, governments would be more likely to pass laws to reduce or ban alcohol consumption.



Therefore Kate mobilised, encouraged and coordinated women across the country to sign the suffrage petitions in 1891, 1892 and 1893. Nearly 32,000 signatures were obtained which represented nearly 30% of the women in New Zealand at the time. This resulted in New Zealand becoming the first country in the world in which women were granted the vote in general elections.

Those original signatures, on a long glued-together parchment roll, are now safely stored in a new depository and display cabinet in the National Library of New Zealand. The official opening of this new exhibition took place in Wellington, New Zealand on 19 May, 2017. Kate Sheppard, along with other early NZ history makers, was honored.

In 1895 the WCTU began publishing its own newspaper, the White Ribbon. Kate Sheppard was the first editor.

## CITIZEN ADVOCATE

### What does that mean?

Rosemarie Honore, a new member, has been appointed, on May 8, the Citizen Advocate for WCTU Australia Ltd. She writes, on behalf of WCTU, to politicians and ministers of the government at local and federal levels, about issues that relate to the SAD poisons (smoking, alcohol, drugs). She urges them to make changes, make good laws, fix policies, prevent declining standards - all on behalf of WCTU. This is what WCTU has always done and is a key component of our work. She also guides us, as members, in how to do this. We are all responsible for our nation and we can write, speak up, and urge our governments to fulfil their obligations to the people/citizens. For more information in how to do this yourself, contact us and Rosemarie will guide you.

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## ROSEMARY HAS BEEN ACTIVE...

- Votergram sent to all Federal MPs thanking them for including FASD in 'A Better Safer Future for Central Australia' Plan.
- Various letters and thanks sent to politicians regarding VAPING and its dangers. Replies have been received.
- Letters to Federal Parliament regarding Casket Wines which are too cheap and have no health warnings and urged the government to enforce compulsory warnings and ensure WET reflects the real costs of drinking.
- Letters to politicians regarding Hard Solo drinks which are packaged the same as Solo lemon drinks but now have added alcohol. This endangers our children.
- Ann Bergen also wrote to Karen Andrews and urged the government to - stop importation of vapes, ban their sale and introduce stricter policies.

## VAPING



This serious issue in our nation has gotten out of hand. The government is caught and fraught with how to address this phenomena. Anne Bergen, from WCTU Drug-Free Australia, Victoria, has prepared an excellent illustrated brochure about vaping. For a copy of this brochure, contact us.

Joy Butler attended a DACA (Drug Advisory Council of Australia) meeting earlier this year. Dr Ibrahim, a highly qualified respiratory and sleep physician was the speaker. He is opposed to the legalisation of drugs. In his presentation, he explained the negative outcomes of illicit drug use and in particular the harmful effects of vaping and smoking marijuana.

The Australian government has recently (May, 2023) taken strong action on smoking and vaping. They plan to reduce smoking and stamp out vaping - particularly among young Australians - through stronger legislation, enforcement, education and support. The government has allocated many millions of dollars to fund measures to protect Australians against the harm caused by tobacco and vaping products. They are proposing stronger regulation and enforcement of all e-cigarettes, including new controls on their importation, contents and packaging.

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