

WHITE RIBBON SIGNAL



Prayer Matters

URGENT - Professor Stuart Reece is asking for prayer support for his messages about cannabis and its close association with many cancers, to be publicly and powerfully circulated throughout Australia and the world.

Money Matters

WCTU Australia is able to help other entities with financial support. During the past 4 years we have donated \$30,600 to worthwhile temperance causes. We have funded FASD signage on buses and in doctors' surgeries at a cost of \$35,000.

Did you know

The women of WCTU brought about many innovations: Whippings ceased, homes for prisoners and prostitutes opened, kindergartens initiated, food for the poor, clothes for sailors, education in schools, tea rooms opened, street marches, votes for women, domestic violence addressed, laws changed, politicians hassled, camps for children, booths and displays at shows, literature, books and pamphlets - and more....



43rd National Convention

The convention was a time of renewal and commitment and inspiration. 'Come Alive' was our theme. Thanks to Karen Edwards (pictured above) and her energetic team, we enjoyed great hospitality in Adelaide. Thirty-eight dedicated people attended the meeting and offered their expertise, support, prayers and suggestions. It was great to meet the young women of South Australia who have a big heart for WCTU. The opening meeting at a nearby venue gathered together dignitaries from the SA government and other community leaders who are fully supportive of WCTU. We shared the history of WCTU and reported on what had been accomplished during the past 4 years. A 15 minute film by filmmaker and supporter, Campbell, illustrating the history and influence of the mighty women of WCTU in South Australia was an excellent feature. **Ask for the link to see this.**





Bronwyn Mison is an innovator and communicator. She is a teacher and preacher and has a passion for the youth of the world. She has agreed to be a Consultant for WCTU Australia and will bring new and much needed guidance to our organisation. At convention she led us through some strategic planning for Australia and helped us focus on why we are here and who we are. We welcome Bronwyn to our team. She lives at Port Macquarie.

Highlights at Convention

Professor Maggie Brady spoke about the temperance movement past and present amongst the Aboriginal women of Australia. Valuable information and resources she has to share.

Debbie Gilson, Liaison officer for the South Australia Major Crime, kept us entertained and touched with her passion to help desperate people.

Paulette Cairns, from Rahab Ministries shared how she reaches desperate women for God.

These presentations are available to watch - contact Glenda Amos

A full report will be included in the Report Book being issued soon. Contact Rhona Theodore

Time for Change - COME ALIVE

We live in a time of rapid change. Sometimes change is painful but it cannot be ignored. What worked yesterday does not always mean it will work today or tomorrow. Communications and Social Media have had a huge impact on our world and we must make use of it. Churches and businesses the world over are looking at innovative ways to make a difference. They are talking together and ready to move on. One leader says it is important to assess what we are doing and at the missional activities of our churches and consider what connections we are making and the impact that is making on those around us. We need to look at where we are now in WCTU and where we hope to be in the next 3 years. Sometimes it seems that there is darkness all around as we see the ravages of Covid, of war and disappointments in governments. We need to look up, pray and go with God. Use the skills of those who offer their help and be open to change. WCTU Australia has been here for 130 years and this shows that God must be with us. We stay because we feel socially responsible and as Christians in Australia, we have a message of hope to share. Roy Williams in his book "Post God Nation" says that this nation was built on Christian principles by people who were versed in the Bible but religion has now fallen off the radar and he suggests that we need to get it back on. WCTU can help. God bless us as we move ahead.

Joy Butler

President, WCTU Australia Ltd



Glenda Amos retires from Children's Department - DFK



Glenda is a woman of faith and excellence. She has faithfully fulfilled a role within WCTU at World and National level in the Children's Department. She has worked with much diligence and faithfulness for more than 20 years in this role after being gently coerced into it long ago. She is worthy of applause and much thanks. She has produced the excellent Drug Free Kids paper which is circulated to hundreds of children in schools and churches quarterly. She has set up websites for World and National WCTU. She is still the treasurer for Australia WCTU Ltd for a similar amount of time and cares for all the finances and legal aspects of our organisation. A huge thanks to Glenda and a prayer that God will bless and lead her in the days ahead. Glenda lives near Newcastle.

Rebecca Edwards - new DFK leader

Rebecca was appointed as the enthusiastic young mother who put her hand up as one who wanted to care for this part of our ministry. It was a moment of delight and revelation when she said - "I'm here and available - I want to do it." All I could say was, "Praise God." Here is what Rebecca says - *"I am a mum of two children; Elijah is 2.5 years old and Delilah is one year old. I felt called to this position to create literature that children will connect with and bring all things back to God. As my children grow up, they will know the Lord and also the reasons why they should abstain from all drugs and alcohol."*

Please pray for Rebecca as she takes up this important role in Australia WCTU. Rebecca lives in Adelaide.



"Children are not casual guests in our home. They have been loaned to us temporarily for the purpose of loving them and instilling a foundation of values on which their future lives will be built." – James Dobson

Annual Fees Due NOW – please go online and pay your fees now. \$20 is the small fee required to join WCTU and to continue your membership. This money is used for only good purposes and helps to keep our organisation functioning well and entitles you to receive the White Ribbon Signal and other notifications and newsletters. You are entitled to a white ribbon badge to wear with pride and to participate in all things WCTU.

DIRECTORY

World No Tobacco Day – May 31

This is a day in the WCTU calendar that we observe and remember. The harmful impact of the tobacco industry on the environment is vast and growing, adding unnecessary pressure to our planet's already scarce resources and fragile ecosystems. Tobacco kills over 8 million people every year and destroys our environment, further harming human health, through the cultivation, production, distribution, consumption, and post consumer waste.

For more resources and how to promote this important topic – go to <https://www.paho.org/en/campaigns/world-no-tobacco-day-2022>

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking

OVOM (One Voice, One Message) is a newly formed group of concerned people who are taking action to speak, educate and inform the world about illicit drugs. It is being set up by Renee Besseling from Sweden who is looking to establish an international drug prevention media-focused entity. It also works to coordinate the international drug prevention agencies better. Their VISION is to unite, stop the demand and end the supply of drugs. They plan to launch their initiative close to **June 26** on this International Day of Drug Abuse and Trafficking. <https://drugfree.org.au/index.php>

Remembering members of WCTU

Doctor Christina Naylor died in April, 2022. She was a missionary in Japan and spoke and wrote in Japanese. She was a key translator for WCTU there. She consistently prepared submissions and papers to the Australian government about FASD.

Mavis Greenwell, of Newcastle Union died in May, 2022. She was a missionary to India and a faithful member of WCTU in Newcastle at the time of her death.

Phil Groom died in May, 2022. He was the husband of Averil Groom, Brisbane. Phil had been a solid supporter of WCTU in New Zealand before coming to Australia. Being a scientist he was instrumental in working with Alcohol and Drug Testing initiatives in New Zealand in the 1960s.

Finally

A message from the World WCTU leader, Margaret Ostenstad - *“Today God still looks for individuals who are willing to ‘stand in the gap’. Men and women who care more about the approval of God than the approval of man...Our main goal is to give the light of hope in every day life and confirm that everything is possible as long as we never give up.”*

Websites www.wctu.org.au
www.dfk.com.au

WRS newsletter is published four times a year - in March, June, Sept, December. Members are welcome to submit material to the editor, to be published at the editor's discretion. Letters to the editor are also welcome. Membership applications and renewals should be done via the WCTU website or sent to the National office.

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