

# WHITE RIBBON SIGNAL



## Prayer Matters

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We can never cease to pray - WCTU is based on prayer and always has been. Noontime prayer is a time for all WCTU members to pray. Pray for - younger people to join, pray for our government to make good laws, pray for those who are joining sober societies, pray that WCTU will lead people to Jesus, the only hope for the world. **Remember World Prayer Day March 5**

## Education

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"We know that alcoholism is destructive to a person's health, but what effect does an alcoholic parent have on their children? According to research the effect is devastating. An alcoholic parent is in fact destroying young lives before they begin living, as the negative emotions they experience in childhood are carried with them for the rest of their lives." Michelle Down

## Did you know .....

- .....
- 1725 - Benjamin Franklin demonstrated that as an abstainer he could perform feats of strength impossible to his beer drinking companions.
- 1808 - First Temperance Society formed in USA.
- 1838 - Total Abstinence Societies formed in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne. 1839 in Hobart
- 1883 - World WCTU founded by Miss Frances Willard.



## Editorial - President

Our children are our greatest treasure, our greatest concern - they are the leaders of the nations in a very short time. My five year old grandson has just started school and my heart aches for him. His future looms before him. WCTU has always had a strong focus on children and youth and this continues. As we start another year in this Covid-19 focussed time let's determine to show love to all children, let's provide safe environments for them, let's speak to and know their names within our circle of influence, let's do all we can to demonstrate that we want only the best for them. Read Glenda Amos's contribution and see what is important now. *Matthew 19:14 'Let the children come to Me and don't stop them for God's Kingdom is made up of such people.'* (my paraphrase) May God grant that you will be the best parent, grandparent, Aunt, neighbour, friend to the children you meet.

*Joy Butler*





## News from all over

**South Australia WCTU** is active and touching lives where it matters. Their tea rooms continue to reach people with historical and current information about temperance matters.

**Victoria WCTU** has long been in the forefront of temperance work in Australia. The first National WCTU convention was held in Melbourne 1892. They continue to maintain a thriving work and reach thousands of people through their advertising, campaigns, literature and petitions.

**Newcastle NSW WCTU** has changed location and meetings will be held at Warners Bay as from the first Wednesday in March.

In **Papua New Guinea** Beatrice Kemo leads the WCTU and is determined to do more for children this year. She says - *"These days those of us doing WCTU are all at home and we don't have computers. We are telling our working children to help us get information through them. Any way we are not going to give up. We will continue to do our best this year."*

**Fiji's** only certified alcohol and drugs counsellor says - there's evidence that people are turning to drugs and alcohol as a way to cope with the fall out of Covid-19. Fiji has only a small number of cases but its economy has been hit hard, with closed borders seeing tens of thousands of people losing their jobs.

In **Kenya** the WCTU Rehabilitation centre continues with clients.

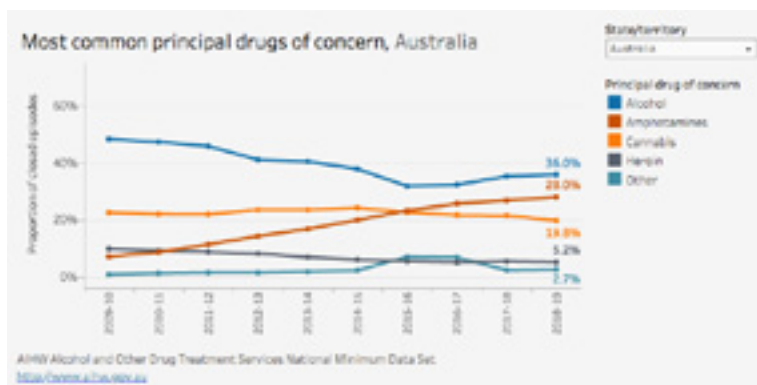
## WHERE TO NOW?

### Glenda Amos - Director for Children's Work

Children and youth have been a focus for WCTU Australia for many years. It is a little disturbing however, to note that at present we have no youth director to lead our teens and young adults and the number of children being enlisted in our Drug Free Kids Club is decreasing. Our members are not as active in encouraging children and youth to sign the pledge to stay free from alcohol and other drugs.

Twenty years ago, we saw an increasing number of children and young people in society taking up different drugs, alcohol and tobacco use and we multiplied our efforts to educate children in the reasons as to why it is a great choice to be drug-free. These formative years are crucial in providing a good foundation for their future health, development and wellbeing. It is a time when a person needs to establish positive health and social behaviours.

This is why it is important that we maintain a focus on children and youth. It is encouraging to note in the latest statistics to see that in many cases, drug, alcohol and tobacco use among children and youth has declined over the last 20 years. Does this mean our work is done? Not at all! So what is the picture that we find in Australia in today's society and where should our focus be?



In 2015, alcohol and illicit drug use were the leading causes of total burden of disease in males aged 15–24 and the second and third leading causes (respectively) for females.

From the statistics of trends in drug use it has been suggested that the number of youth between the ages of 12 - 17 that have used drugs in the last month can be summarised as follows:<sup>1</sup>

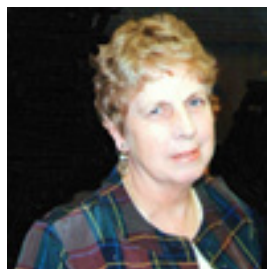
- Alcohol (at least a full serve) 1 in 4 (27%)
- Cannabis 1 in 12 (8%)
- Hallucinogens 1 in 100 (1%)
- Cocaine 1 in 100 (1%)
- MDMA/Ecstasy 1 in 50 (2%)
- Heroin 1 in 100 (1%)
- Methamphetamine - 1 in 100 (1%)

Our children and youth are our most treasured resource. We need to inspire them to live drug-free lives and help them to find relevance and purpose as they mature into responsible adults in today's society. Be their friend and show interest in their activities and achievements. If you have a passion for working with children and youth, become involved with WCTU Australia and help to make a difference for the future. This is one area that needs you!

*(Abridged)* For the complete article by Glenda and the suggestions for our work for children and youth, please go to - [www.wctu.org.au](http://www.wctu.org.au)

<sup>1</sup>Guerin, N. & White, V. (2018). ASSAD 2017 Statistics & Trends: Australian Secondary Students' Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Over-the-counter Drugs, and Illicit Substances. Cancer Council Victoria.



*Important message from Ellen Chandler previous National President for Australia WCTU*

“Those were the days my friend, we thought they’d never end” - so the song opens. If we look back through our history we see great and glorious days when membership was high across all ages, when Annual Convention brought together many women filling a city church for the open meeting. Times when there were great achievements such as the Votes for Women, female matrons in prisons, opening of the first kindergarten etc. So the list could go on. But we must remember that these things did not come easily. They were success stories after much prayer, letter writing, personal approaches etc. It was said that politicians looked with dread if they saw an appointment made in the name of the WCTU. (*What do they want now?*). Minutes record activities unusual in

this day and age. e.g. paying for an ambulance to assist wounded World War 1 soldiers, developing hostels and a Holiday Home at Williamstown. WCTU specialised in meeting needs.

Always WCTU has been at the forefront of change and aware of many problems in society. But there have been enormous changes. Women, if they choose, may now belong to many organisations- providing they can find the time with family commitments when working, plus using virtual communities online. So WCTU competes for a part of women's lives.

Can we plan and act to promote WCTU in 21/22? Can we present WCTU as an organisation worthy of time and effort? Can we focus on special actions to raise our profile?

We cannot see into the future but we can prepare. While WCTU is relatively active can we develop a contingency plan, put in place possible actions for the future of our resources, only to be acted on when WCTU is no longer viable?

And, as always, prayerfully say “O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Be thou our guide while troubles last and our eternal home”

*Comments in response to this message from Ellen are invited. Please send your response and suggestions to the President Joy Butler - joymariebutler@gmail.com Your thoughts will be shared and discussed with the Executive of WCTU Australia Ltd. Thank you in anticipation. We need your input.*

*From the Alcohol and Drug Foundation-January 18,2021*

“Adolescence is a time of immense physical and social change, where the brain undergoes rapid growth and development. There are significant concerns that the use of alcohol or other drugs at this time may impact brain development. Drinking alcohol can impact brain development up until the age of 25 years - affecting cognitive abilities such as attention, memory, and decision-making.”

*From the Alcohol and Drug Foundation-January 29,2021*

“Each year the alcohol industry spends more than \$100 million on alcohol advertising. Given how extensive this is, young people (aged 12-24 years) often see many different forms of alcohol advertising (on tv, radio, billboards etc) - which can contribute to them taking up drinking, starting drinking at a much younger age, and engaging in risky drinking behaviours.”

**Hugs  
not  
Drugs**

**CONNECTOR** - If you wish to connect with WCTU and read our monthly newsletter, and see just what we are doing and where, learn about the current issues surrounding drugs, alcohol and smoking, go to this website. We would love you to join us and be part of a dynamic group of women who care. <https://us19.campaign-archive.com/>

**BOOK LAUNCH**

We are delighted to launch our newest WCTU book 'Women of Purpose', edited by Joy Butler. It is about women who have made a difference in Australia during much of the 20th century. They have been and are women of purpose and their stories are inspirational.

Thanks to Anne Bergen, to whom this book is dedicated and her purposeful life. She has been an inspiration to many with her dedication and persistence in sharing the temperance message widely in Australia and the world. Read about her and more than 30 others in this book which many dedicated women have contributed to.

Share with your family, friends and others who need to know the true story of WCTU and what these women have been able to accomplish. Go to [amazon.com.au](https://amazon.com.au) to download. Type in 'women of purpose butler'

### Triennial Convention - Adelaide

Come to Adelaide for the 43rd National WCTU Australia Convention - October 12-15, 2021. Come and enjoy fellowship, fun and planning at the Come to Life West Beach Parks Holiday Resort. The venue is beside the sea and close to the airport. Speakers include Professor Maggie Brady, Bronwyn Mison and others who know and care about our nation and what alcohol, drugs and smoking are doing. It all matters and your voice and vote is urgently needed. Join with others who care about Australia and our children and the heritage they will receive from us.

### What Alcohol and Drugs can do ..... Sydney Morning Herald, Feb 13, 2021

An enraged man, who was probably a decent citizen, for he is a Real Estate principal in a Sydney suburb, was drunk and soaked with drugs when he attacked two women in his apartment causing serious injuries and trauma. He used a samurai sword to do this horrible deed. Karl Howard is now facing charges and prison for his crazy behaviour. He was shouting and raging "I want to keep drinking. I don't want to go to sleep." Just another tragic story when these poisons are consumed.

### Finally Sisters - a message from our World Leader - Margaret Ostenstad

*'True love can lift people up. It can give rootless refugees self respect back. Neglected children can get on a better track. Desperate people can take on new courage. People suffering from addiction of alcohol and other drugs can get help with a new life course. Elderly lonely people can have a sad everyday life turned upside down. Love can encourage depressed teenage girls to realise their resources. Love evokes positive thoughts about one's own dignity and self-respect.'*

**Berry Crush** - Blend 1 cup each of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries. Add 1 cup cranberry juice, 1 cup coconut milk. Blend till smooth. Pour over ice and garnish.

**DIRECTORY**

**Websites** [www.wctu.org.au](http://www.wctu.org.au)  
[www.dfk.com.au](http://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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