

NATIONAL CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT (October 2018 TO-2021) – Rhona Theodore

At the 42nd National Convention, the in-coming Directors were Mrs Joy Butler (President), Mrs. Ellen Chandler (Retiring President), Mrs Jan Shattock and Mrs Christine White (Vice Presidents), Rhona Theodore (Corresponding Secretary), Mrs Glenda Amos (Treasurer) and (Director of Children's Work), Mrs Ellen Chandler (Editor, White Ribbon Signal) Mrs. Anne Bergen and Mrs Dawn Giddings (Ex. Officio Vice Presidents).

It was again decided that we would hold teleconferences on a regular basis. During these three years, we held 13 teleconferences. Each meeting began and ended in Prayer.

The first Directors' meeting was held straight after the Convention on 18/10/18.

It was then decided, and Ellen Chandler accepted and will remain as Past President and that Anne Bergen will become Retiring President.

It was agreed that as we need a good quorum of people on the committee we include the Past President and Retiring President as full members of the Executive.

Department Co-ordinators were appointed:

Christian Outreach – Mrs Margaret Major – Superintendent

Margaret was appointed but due to personal reasons she resigned, and no replacement has been found. (Until late last year, Joan Millar kept in contact with members in Victoria, birthday cards, etc and the ladies do much social work in Kerang)

Education: No appointment.

Social Service and Citizenship (Community Involvement) - Miss Mavis Gerrish

Discussions were held regarding a **Mission Statement** (similar to the sign made for the Victorian office). WCTU came into being because of the love for God and for the protection of the home. A letter was drafted for new members.

FASD Projects – ongoing:

We still have a quantity of Bandaid packs and FASD Jotter Pads. FASD should be an on-going project as part of that plan. (as at last stocktake Band aids- 460 and Jotter pads 1440).

Over these three years:

Applications for grants: /donations

- National approved an amount for WCTU/Turning Point Solutions Rehabilitation House, Kenya. approved, on receipt of paperwork.

- Money request from Kairos was approved, when the request comes through. \$5000/-

- We need to consider any conditions the government will put on grants and whether the ethos matches WCTU.

- Drug Free Australia Request for support.

It was suggested that it is better for WCTU as a whole to donate to DFA – as our finances allow. Far better for us to be doing projects where we are making an impact on society and using the money instead of stockpiling money.

- World Federation Against Drugs membership (we paid \$100/-)
- National donated an amount to Taskforce 4 Drug Prevention for media release on Cannabis and Cancer. 5 organisations in the group and mostly are Christian. DACA, Dalgarno, Family Voice, WCTU, Teen Challenge Tasmania, Drug Free Australia.

WRS

Official thank you to Ellen for editing WRS for so many years, Jan purchased a lovely bunch of flowers and presented them to Ellen.

In the changeover, Ellen made some valid comments and suggestions (just a few mentioned here)

- *provide a publication that portrays our Mission statement, sometimes overtly.*
- *not all are computer literate and traditions die hard*
- *to highlight other social issues and create awareness*
- *to take pride in our work.*

Joy was appointed as the new Editor of WRS. **Date?**

Thank you to Michelle who publishes the online monthly Connector from National it is packed full of interesting and important information. A hard copy Connector from Victoria for WCTU Victoria is mailed out with the WRS.

Plan of work: possibilities were discussed. Joy to talk with Lynelda Tippo about what we could do as a national project among indigenous Australians. General or indigenous areas.

Governance for the future: How are we planning for the future and what do we want WCTU to look like in 10 years' time? This includes looking at our membership trends and how that impacts what our future may look like.

We need to realise that each of us is a director of a company – we are working together whatever decisions we make as an organisation.

FASD good news – Joy reported on the successful outcome of submissions to government for the upgrading and enlarging of FASD warning labels on alcohol – to be implemented in Australia and NZ within the next three years. WCTU has had a part in that – and many politicians replied favourably to our submissions.

Social media report – Joy mentioned the growth of Social Media outlets and is glad to say that WCTU is there using it wherever possible.

Books available: “Uncorked”, and “Women of Purpose” which consists of stories of WCTU women who cared for God, Home and Humanity in the past 30 or 40 years which was put together and edited by Joy Butler.

South Australia shared their good news about the new leadership there with Karen Edwards as President.

Advertising: for TV ads in Doctors' surgeries. and two additional venues in Qld – at Red Hill and Eastbrook Medical Centre in the Gold Coast were added to current venues for no extra cost. **Buses?**

The Resolution Committee - Christine White, Jan Shattock, Michelle Down –will do their work at Convention when the direction of WCTU is clearer and known.

In conclusion from Glenda – **Going Forward – Collaboration with other entities Report:** Other Organisations: can we partner with include Dalgarno, Alco Free Drinks, FARE, DFA.

Gary Christian is anxious for us to keep the WCTU Australia name. It is distinctive. It is our name, our Christian ethic and history.

These three years have seen many changes – COVID 19 has changed many lives. However, National has continued it's work. Zoom has played a very important part in keeping up together.

It has been an important and sometimes a challenging time for WCTU – however, I feel that we have come through stronger.

In a September 1990 Readers Digest, in "Points to Ponder", Lewis Timberlake wrote this "While on a tour of California's giant sequoias, the guide pointed out that the sequoia tree has roots just barely below the surface. "That's impossible" I exclaimed "I'm a country boy, and I know that if the roots don't grow deep into the earth, strong winds will blow the trees over" "Not sequoia trees" said the guide. They grow only in groves, and their roots intertwine under the surface of the earth. So, when strong winds come, they hold each other up." Then he wrote, "There's a lesson here. In a sense, people are like the giant sequoias. Family, friends, neighbours, the church body and other groups should be havens so that when the strong winds of life blow, these people can serve as reinforcement and can strive together to hold each other up."

Rhona Theodore – Corresponding Secretary