

WHITE RIBBON SIGNAL



Prayer Matters

Pray for - new members and associate members to join WCTU.
Pray for - Convention 2022 in Adelaide. Pray for children and grandchildren of our members.
Pray for victory and the peace of God for those who are trying hard to stop drinking. Pray for our government to make good laws to keep families safe.

Education

FASD - Foetal Alcohol Syndrome - some facts: The foetus can be affected regardless of the amount/frequency of alcohol consumed by the mother. Each year 630,000 babies with FAS are born globally. The average life expectancy of people with FAS is 34 years of age, with external causes accounting for 44% of all deaths.
Sarah Oh, World Education Officer

Did you know

1893 Women's franchise granted in New Zealand - thanks to WCTU strong involvement. **1898** Death of Frances Willard. First WCTU booth at Royal Agricultural Show in Melbourne. **1902** Formation of National Council of Women, Victoria. **1903** National WCTU Convention held in Melbourne. **1909** WCTU Free Kindergarten opened at Richmond, Vic.



Editorial - President - *Joy Butler*

Driving for hundreds of kilometres almost every day across the vast expanses of Queensland has been my lot for the past few weeks. The journey was educational, interesting and calming. I was privileged to share WCTU literature in Mt Isa, Innisfail, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Gympie. In each place I found people who are concerned about the children and teens who live amongst them. They want to show them God's love and purpose for their lives. The children I spoke to responded positively to the message of SAY NO to the SAD (smoking, alcohol, drugs) poisons. It was thrilling to hear these children use the words and actions to show they meant what they said. They eagerly accepted and read the DFK papers I shared with them.

Convention for 2021 has been postponed. Our carefully planned-for triennial convention has been postponed owing to uncertainties and the growing Covid-19 crisis. Please continue to pray that the way will be opened for this convention to be held next year in March 22-24, 2022. *PTO - continued*





Covid-19 continues to ravage our world. We are caught up in a time of great uncertainty as people succumb to sickness, to alienation from each other, to doubts and deep anxiety about the future. Many are brought to ruin financially and the world is in crisis. This is a time for Christians to rise up with hope and a message of peace. It is a time for prayer and for trusting in God.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV
 God bless us all as we submit to God every day.

New from all over

India - WCTU held its convention recently in Delhi. They have sadly lost some of their older members recently due to Covid-19. We mourn with them but look forward to the great reunion in Heaven.

Kenya - Florence, WCTU leader, has visited seven high schools during June, giving guidance, counselling, mental health and drug abuse lectures. The response at the churches she has spoken at has been 'overwhelming'. WCTU is collaborating now with St Johns Ambulance and Alcoholic Anonymous.

Finland - A highly esteemed and strong leader of WCTU Finland recently died. Anja Aalto was instrumental in growing a strong organisation there and in seeing a rehabilitation house for women and programme go from strength to strength. She was a woman of dignity, courage and ability.



What WCTU Is - by Michelle Down, Webmaster, WCTU

WCTU is an organisation of Christian women devoted to social reform and is an internationally active union with chapters in over 46 countries around the world, with various programmes to help the women of those countries.

WCTU was originally organised by women who were concerned about the destructive power of alcohol and the problems it was causing their families and society and WCTU members choose total abstinence from alcohol as their lifestyle. Today this also includes recreational drugs.

Total Abstinence, practised by concerned citizens, could change the moral, economic and family life picture of the nation by improving the health of the next generation, reducing the tragic road toll, lessening the number of inmates in prisons, hospitals and mental institutions, decreasing family violence and preventing Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and the associated lifetime financial and social costs to society.

WCTU Australia not only encourages a healthy lifestyle but is also involved in social issues of concern to our nation. It sponsors bus advertising, pays for advertising in doctors' surgeries, supports research, runs drug-ed programs and supports women's shelters.

Looking forward, WCTU Australia is envisaging ways to revitalise the organisation in Australia, implement new strategies, engage young people in making wise choices, reach out to the Aboriginal community and promote a healthy lifestyle. This could include employing a full time manager, ramping up our media presence and developing exciting programmes to appeal to today's youth.

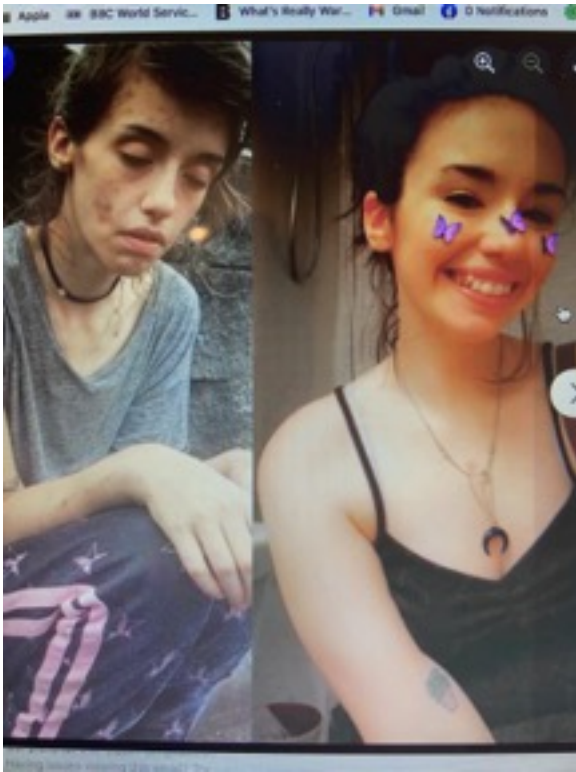
If you are not a member - please consider joining today as a full member or as an associate member.

You are wanted and needed.

Go to our website -

www.wctu.org.au

The Unexpected Joy of Being Sober



This is the name of a facebook group with thousands of members from all over the world. Every day people share their stories of tragedy, disappointment and hope. They encourage each other to move ahead, get sober and be happy. Here is one young woman's story -

Left: me, completely broken, 93 pounds, living on the streets, living in fear, in pain, addicted to meth and heroin, and ready for my life to finally end. I had endocarditis twice from using and I had a hole in my heart. My mom took that picture when she went to rescue me.

Right: I took this picture tonight. Didn't care about angles. Just wanted to show my happiness. 9 months clean. I fought hard for months in the hospital, survived heart surgery, gained 40 pounds, got a place to live, and I have my family and my two cats that help me. I've posted the before pic a lot but my story is important. Recovery is possible and it is worth it.

Sobriety has become a popular word in Australia and there are many websites, groups and others discussing and are involved in providing non-alcoholic drinks. Just look on facebook, the internet, watch the news and you will see and hear that good things are happening for those who wish and choose to be sober. Sober in the Country SITC soberinthecountry.org is influencing thousands for good. Their campaign #OK2SAYNO is reaching over 100,000 people. Shana Whann, founder and creator, is a straight talking country girl who understands first hand the tragedies associated with alcohol and she speaks, writes, lectures and yarns with Australians and tells them it's okay to say NO and to be sober.

Sobriety is not an anchor
It's a pair of wings



Look out for non-alcoholic drinks and tell others. Trevor Schofield at Tuggerah NSW alcofree.com.au is one who knows the danger of alcohol and has a flourishing business. You can visit his shop and warehouse or shop online.

Joy Butler

DIRECTORY



Victoria WCTU continues to actively work for the good of Australia. Their work in schools is exemplary. Recently they held another colour-in competition for children. This is a wonderful way to promote temperance. Thanks to Anne Bergen, Dawn Stark, Jan Shattock and Rhona Theodore who have led the way.



South Australia WCTU has a beautiful tearooms where they provide tea, scones and share the temperance history and message in Adelaide. It has become a place where the members invite friends and important people to learn what WCTU is all about. New members are enlisted. Thanks to Dawn Giddings and Karen Edwards, past and present presidents who have worked tirelessly to make this happen.

Newcastle NSW Circle WCTU has an expanded group meeting at Cooranbong but due to lockdowns they will meet again sometime in the future. So far they have invited speakers to share why we should continue WCTU and are making sure Op Shops in the area have WCTU literature. Thanks to Helen Palmer, Mavis Gerrish, Dorothy Mills and others for support.



DATES TO REMEMBER

August 18 - Never Give Up Day - See UN International Days
August 26 - End it Now Day - End Domestic Violence enditnow.org
September 9 - FAS Day - Foetal Alcohol Syndrome
September 28 - WCTU World Day of Prayer - Frances Willard's birthday
 If you need more information about these special days please email us.

Finally a word from our world president Margaret Ostenstad -
"We need to strategically develop plans for membership, finances and building stewardship. One thing we must never forget is that the challenges we are in, have been an incredible catalyst for new and wonderful things ahead." World WCTU - wwctu.org

Stress Reliever - 2 green apples, bunch spinach, 1/2 cucumber, 1 stick celery, 1/4 lemon, 1/2 ginger root. Blend together. Drink.
 See more on **Pinterest** - Non-Alcohol Drinks - WCTU

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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