

# WHITE RIBBON SIGNAL



## Prayer Matters

WCTU Australia has a zoom prayer network which meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9.00 am. We would love you to join us - we pray for WCTU in Australia and worldwide. We pray for young people to join us. We pray for the elimination of the SAD poisons - smoking, alcohol, drugs. Join us - send your email to Joy Butler [joymariebutler@gmail.com](mailto:joymariebutler@gmail.com)

## Education

- Worldwide,, 3 million deaths every year result from harmful use of alcohol, this represents 5.3% of all deaths.
- The harmful use of alcohol is a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditions.
- Overall 5.1% of the global burden of disease and injury is attributable to alcohol, as measured in disability-adjusted life years.
- Alcohol consumption causes death and disability relatively early in life. In the age group 20-39 years approximately 13.5% of the all deaths are alcohol attributable.

## Did you know?

South Australia was the first state in Australia to grant suffrage (the right to vote) to women in December, 1894. Thanks to the WCTU for leading the way.



## Greetings from our leaders

**Anne Bergen** - President, Drug Free Lifestyles, Victoria, Australia and World Organisation Secretary for WWCTU says: *Dear WCTU members, I pray that at this Christmas you will find that the Christ of Christmas will feel very close and fill you with joy and peace.*

**Karen Edwards** - President, South Australia, Australia says: *It is time to reflect upon our achievements no matter how small and thank the Lord for His faithfulness. Godly women are a powerful force. In words of encouragement, action or prayer, we sharpen our swords for the coming battles against the enemy, and help set the captives free.*

**Helen Palmer** - Coordinator, NSW, Australia says: *Christmas is a time of thanksgiving, hope, joy in singing the carols and sharing love with family and friends.*

**Vicki Knight** - Coordinator, Tasmania, Australia says: *As the Christmas season begins may we remember the greatest gift of a Savior for all who live on earth. Blessings from Tasmania for a safe and peaceful Christmas.*

**Joy Butler** - President, WCTU Australia Ltd says: *We continue to trust God to direct us in Australia. We wish you a happy, safe, sane and blessed Christmas Season.*





## WWCTU Plan of Action for 2022-2026

There are ten objectives:

- To develop and implement alcohol and drug prevention projects while continuing existing ones
- To make the White Ribbon (WCTU) an active organisation within the drug prevention field
- To be informed and up-to-date on international research on drugs and drug abuse
- To focus on the connection between drugs and partner violence through campaigns, information and preventative measures
- To promote cooperation with other organisations who share the same vision as us
- To maintain work for clean drinking water and sanitation
- To maintain and strengthen our work with children and youth
- To focus on the value of creating a drug-free zone when spending time with children and family
- To strengthen and develop work in the local branches
- To take good care of members

## Elma Mabel COOMBE

*"...Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on...that they may rest from their labours and their works follow them." Revelation 14:13*

Elma, born in 1920, was brought up in a Christian home and environment. She was made aware that alcohol was a 'no-no' and stories emphasised this at home and school. When she was eight years old, a lecturing WCTU missionary visited her home and impressed her greatly. In 1943 she became a member of WCTU when invited to a meeting. She remained a member, faithfully wearing her white ribbon brooch until she died on October 28, 2022. Elma worked with and supported WCTU in Sydney, Wagga Wagga, Adelaide, Perth and Cooranbong, NSW. In her retirement Elma was president of a Union in NSW for 10 years. She lectured, spoke, provided literature, distributed literature and books, promoted children's temperance events, attended the court to object to bottle shops being opened at Cooranbong. She mentored many younger women. Elma attended national conventions and the World Convention in Adelaide in 2013. She was a ball of energy and enthusiasm for God, Home and Humanity. She is already sadly missed. Her love for and attention to people was inspiring right to her last days and her influence will live on. Glenda Amos, our capable and long standing member and treasurer of WCTU Australia Ltd, is her daughter. Grand-daughters also belong. WCTU conveys our deepest sympathies to Glenda and her family.



On the left is Elma Coombe on her 100th birthday with Joy Butler - saying "WCTU wants and needs you - join today."

On the right is Elma (102) at a WCTU meeting in 2022.

She will not be forgotten. Rest in peace dear Elma.

## The Story of Kerryn Redpath

Drug & Alcohol Awareness Educator - Director DAESY [www.daesy.com.au](http://www.daesy.com.au)

Kerryn Redpath grew up in a loving family and attended good schools. She was blessed at birth with a strong, healthy body, had many good friends and was involved in several sporting activities. Despite this ideal upbringing, as is so common for teens who just want to fit in, she began to follow her peers into the party scene, naively entering the drug culture of her time. Blinded by the reality surrounding her, Kerryn soon progressed from legal substances to marijuana, which in turn, led her down the slippery slope into poly-drug use. Over the following years, while working full-time in a well-respected inner-city office, Kerryn's life began to spiral out of control until her near demise at age 25, when she was struck down with drug-related heart and kidney failure.

Kerryn spent almost five months, gravely ill, in The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, where she came close to death on several occasions, at one point requiring acute cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). She has not touched an illicit drug since that time and unfortunately, has been left with physical scars requiring medication that has greatly affected her life. **Kerryn deeply regrets the choices of her youth** and is passionate about using her knowledge and lessons learned, for the benefit of others.

In 2010 a teacher, who knew of her story, contacted Kerryn and asked her to speak to the Year 10 students in the school where he taught. Her message was so well received that this became the catalyst for her current Drug & Alcohol Awareness presentations that have taken her to schools and businesses across Australia. Her own shocking personal experiences have led Kerryn to explore and understand the vulnerability of young people and how to best prepare them for encounters of all kinds. She has also become well versed on the risks and side effects associated with drug and alcohol use and abuse.

*Kerryn has suffered and witnessed so much of the dark side of substance use, that her presentations in no way glamourise drug use, as clearly indicated in employee, staff and student feedback.* On the contrary, her presentations openly relay how easily young people from any demographic can slip into this lifestyle and the dangers that can pose.

Kerryn's presentations carefully blend a combination of up to date information with real-life stories, covering some of the various factors that lead people to substance use, direct students, who may have suffered trauma, to help services rather than self-medicating and conclude with a message of hope. The responses received from all audiences are consistently positive.

Her message is not purely academic. As a result of her experience, Kerryn is regularly contacted by parents or loved ones of people of varying ages who are battling addiction and she has had the privilege of guiding some into rehab with some great outcomes. But this is a tough battle!

Kerryn is the author of two published books, firstly, 'Out of the Darkness', which includes the horror stories that turn to hope as she finds a faith in God. And secondly, 'Chasing After the Wind', the more secular version that covers the same horror stories and the incredible turn-around of her life, plus an educational side and much more.

Kindle links below:

<https://www.amazon.com.au/Out-Darkness-Kerryn-Redpath-ebook/dp/B009SZOCN4>

<https://www.amazon.com/Chasing-After-Wind-Kerryn-Redpath-ebook/dp/B077ZG6JWR>

**MESSAGE FROM JOY BUTLER** - Let's support women such as Kerryn and the many others in Australia who are actively teaching and advocating a sober and healthy lifestyle. Support and pray for those many young people who are endeavouring and committing to a sober lifestyle after years of indulgence in drugs and alcohol. We are here to speak up for and help them. Our task is clear and our message one with them - the SAD poisons are - smoking, alcohol, drugs but we want HHH lives - Happy, Healthy, Holy.

**DIRECTORY**[www.dfk.com.au](http://www.dfk.com.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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**Pinterest**

Non-alcohol Drinks - WCTU

**Country Shows in South Australia** - Since the late 1800's WCTU had always used country shows as part of their outreach, but unfortunately S.A. has not partaken in one for several decades...until now! We will be taking part in the popular 133rd Uraidla Country Show in November, where we will be selling our non alcoholic drinks, scones, free literature and recipes on entertaining the non alcoholic way. Shows and markets are always fun. They bring about awareness and we hope to start doing more. - from Karen Edwards, President, South Australia

**The WCTU motto**

**For GOD, HOME and HUMANITY**

**TV Recording In Morisset, NSW** on Wednesday October 26, Joy Butler was interviewed and recorded on the 3ABN TV channel. This will be shown early in the new year, 2023. The programme is an hour long. During that time Joy was able to tell the history of WCTU for the world and Australia. She shared what we have done, what we do and invited new people to join. The interviewers and the cameramen were all fascinated and inspired with what they heard and now want to join. One of the cameramen wants his child and other children in his church to have a Little White Ribboner service and dedicate the children to God and promise to keep them from the dangers of the SAD poisons. This is an exciting development and hopefully will lead to more members and the message going wider. The interview ended with the words - 'We need you.'

**OVOM - One Voice, One Message**

continues to meet once a month to find ways to spread the message of NO to DRUGS around the world. Renee Besseling in Sweden is the initiator and passionate leader of this group. Representatives come from Sweden, Australia, USA, Uganda, Kenya, Romania, Indonesia, and the list is growing. Please pray for this venture that it will grow and be a huge influence throughout the world.  
[www.ovom.org](http://www.ovom.org)



*Finally...*

*The word of God says - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8. The word sober means: be alert. Peter is admonishing us to be sober, be vigilant; because our adversary, the devil, goes around as a hungry, roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. The word seeking implies that he is diligently looking for his prey. Jesus, speaking to us, said, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:34. Jesus is telling us to look deeply into our own lives and "take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness."*