

# WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

## THREE YEAR REPORT FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION 2021

In the past 3 years, here in South Australia, we have seen an increase of support to our organisation. That has been through new memberships, connecting and working with likeminded organisations, and hosting events in our Tearooms.

Mrs Wendy Sudron our Treasurer and Bookkeeper for 15 years made the decision to withdraw from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in 2019. We have been blessed by the appointment of Ms Elizabeth Robertson as Bookkeeper and Treasurer.

One of the biggest and most important challenges we have embarked on has been the opening and running of the Teatotalers Tearooms. We have seen many church groups, young families and new members come through the Tearoom doors. Whilst the Tearooms were inactive for a little while due to the pandemic, we had the honour to see changed lives and even salvations take place.

Much prayer has been raised to God for direction for WCTU, and we believe that He has been answering our prayers in ways never imagined. We are trusting God to show us what the future holds the WCTU.

Whilst the last two years have been enveloped in the pandemic that is COVID, and we have been unable to be as active in our community involvement as previous years, we still provide support and prayer wherever possible.

We would like to put forward a short poem using the letters of COVID to bring back our thoughts to the Lord.

**C** – Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28)

**O** – **O** give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His mercy endures forever! (Psalm 136:1)

**V** – Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57)

**I** – I am the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6)

**D** – Do not be afraid, keep on speaking, do not be silent, for I am with you (Acts 18:9-10)

Following reports will give further information.

### STATE CONVENTIONS

**2019:** 'Moving Forward in Faith' -

**2020:** 'Prayer is the Answer' -

**2021:** 'For Such a Time as This' -

### SUBMISSIONS / PETITIONS / LETTERS

- Late Term Abortion Bill.
- Gender Dysphoria in Australia.
- No Drug Injection Rooms in Victoria.
- Submissions to all SA and Federal Senators – No Alcohol to Kids ads.

- Victoria's Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.
- Hollywood intensifies its attack on Christ.
- Foreign troops on Australian soil.
- Legalise prostitution Bill

## **PROJECTS**

- The Teatollers Tearooms opened to the public in conjunction with South Australia's History Month in which we had a display for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Suffrage Movement and women getting the vote.
- We networked with the Centre of Democracy in the teaching of voting history.
- We continually donate baby items for mothers in need.
- South Australia placed a 20 second video on FASD in Churchill Road Medical Centre and Glenelg Medical Centre.
- Blankets were donated to the Salvation Army.
- West Beach Community Bank assists with other projects and donated several backpacks and hand knitted jumpers that were donated to a women's domestic violence centre.
- The WCTU funded the printing of 120,000 anti-late-term abortion flyers which were distributed throughout South Australia encouraging people to contact their local MP's to vote against the late-term abortion bill.
- "We Care Boxes" continues to play a big part in our work. West Beach Bendigo People's Bank have continued with their annual donation.

## **DEPARTMENTS**

The following has been undertaken during the past 3 years:

### **Pastoral Care**

- We Care Boxes are ongoing.
- Contact is made with sick and elderly members supported by cards, letters and phone calls. Birthday cards are also sent.
- We continually pray for our members and their families.
- A Presidents supplement with up to date happenings is sent in addition to the White Ribbon Signals.
- A birthday card was sent to member, Mrs Dorothy Harris who celebrated her 108th birthday on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

### **Education**

- White Ribbon Signals and Drug-Free Kids pages continued to be placed in Libraries, Churches, Op Shops etc until this was unable to be accomplished during COVID. With that said, all members and supportive organisations still received these pages and we offered them to all visitors also.
- Membership forms and other literature for the WCTU is placed in the Tearooms.
- We are looking for new ways to promote the use of non-alcoholic drinks in a healthy and trendy way.
- Facebook exposure has resulted in over 1,000 views and has brought about new visitors to the Tearooms and they're shown our history displays and memberships are discussed.
- Visitors to our Tearooms are welcomed and offered out Torchbearers history book as a gift. We also offer books 'New Lives for Old' and 'Aboriginal Women Pathfinders'. White Ribbon Signals and other literature is offered too. As they read the various letters and petitions and view the posters of past prominent women in South Australia, namely Elizabeth Webb Nicholls, they will learn that the WCTU was instrumental in women

being given voting rights in the South Australian Parliament, The National Parliament, and also being able to stand for Parliament. The other Australian States followed after South Australia.

- We promote and sell a wide range of non-alcoholic drinks and offer free drink recipes.
- The South Australian Parliament did a re-enactment of the Voting Bill being passed on 18th December 1894, for the 125th Anniversary on 18th December 2019, to which Karen Edwards and Janny Delany attended, and the many other invited spectators were educated on the involvement of WCTU in getting this Bill passed.
- Janny Delany also attended a special presentation at the Unley Town Hall, about Mary Lee, one of the main suffragists, as part of the 125th Anniversary of Women's Voting Rights. Janny was able to educate a few women present, about WCTU.
- Karen Edwards and Janny Delany attended a number of South Australia History Functions put on by the SA Government, where we would speak with different people and educate a bit sometimes on WCTU history and often it would come as a surprise to some.

## **Community Involvement**

- 2019 Members of the WCTU attended the opening of the South Australia History Festival.
- A Muriel Matters morning tea was attended by members of the WCTU.
- WCTU members were involved in the late term abortion march organised by 'Love Adelaide' in February 2021. Elizabeth Robertson, Suzanne Langberg, Janny Delany, Karen Edwards, and Sharon Bird from Alice Springs. Despite the rain at times, there were over 5,000 people in attendance to voice their disapproval of this nefarious Bill and many signatures were obtained by WCTU staff on the petitions.
- Baby Clothes and toys have been given to 'La Baby' shop that is run by Love Adelaide; they are a charitable baby wear store offering high quality clothing and baby items, supporting young mums who chose not to abort their babies.
- 2019 Members of WCTU were invited to a dinner hosted by Family Voice, to hear speakers State MP Dennis Hood and Vicki Salkin who spoke on Middle East persecution. It was a lovely night attended by WCTU representatives - Sandra Williams, Elizabeth Robertson, Suzanne Langberg, Janny Delany and Karen Edwards.
- We were once again involved in the South Australian History Festival 2021, and the theme was 'Surviving Difficult Times'. In light of the challenges we currently face, we drew from 136 years of WCTU history.
- We hope to have guest speakers as a monthly event, or as the opportunity arises. We need to be networking with other likeminded Christians and MPs, which has always been part of the WCTU strategy in joining forces to get things done. We had the privilege of having Independent S.A. Senator Rex Patrick speak with a small group of eight at the tea rooms in September 2020. Rex spoke about current issues facing S.A. and explained how many things worked within State and Federal politics.
- We also had the honor of Federal Liberal Senator for S.A. Senator Alex Antic to speak to a group of 23 people in February 2021. Alex is a Christian man who has many concerns about the left leaning agendas that are infiltrating party politics, and how we as Christians need to be involved.

## **Nurturing Families**

- Little White Ribboners who are on the roll (at present we have 3 but this number changes as children are added and then removed to move up to DFK) receive birthday cards, literature and a bible.
- Action is taken on issues that adversely affect the family e.g. abortion, safe schools, internet pornography.
- Sales of non-alcoholic drinks continue and sales have grown in part due to having them on display in our Tearooms.
- Leaflets on FASD, drugs and alcohol are on display for visitors to take and read.

## Youth & Drug Free Kids

- Drug Free Kids pages are sent out quarterly.
- Birthday cards and literature are sent each year.
- Work continues with the forwarding of submissions, letters and petitions to members of Parliament when issues that are not honouring to God and adversely affect the family and youth.
- Our youth department has very few member on the role as most have reached the age of 18yrs.
- We need to pray into this area for new ideas how to reach you young people, because they are now facing bigger challenges than ever before, with statics showing that they have very little hope for the future, which will lead to greater dependency on alcohol, drugs, gender identity crisis and suicide.

## Petition Department

- The petition department was officially re-opened in 2021 due to the demand for a dedicated department to assist in this area.
- Submissions were sent to the members of Parliament regarding the 'Defense Legislation Amendment'. This Bill enables foreign troops onto Australia Soil. Furthermore, the Bill would give immunity to foreign troops during a time of emergency. Our concerns were several, as it is well known that many foreign troops do not share the same views regarding our laws, but the Bill would give them immunity.
- Late Term Abortion Bill has been at the forefront of the WCTU in various ways. Emails were sent to every MP in South Australia on the behalf of the WCTU expressing our absolute disapproval for such a Bill. The petitions were then presented to Parliament House on our behalf.
- We now face several Bills that are on the horizon which are - legalised prostitution in S.A., transgender conversion therapy Bill, euthanasia Bill, and it is almost certain the COVID vaccination passport will also be debated. Prayer has to be at the forefront of the battle.

## Records

This has been a busy department for the last few years. Much research has been done for our own WCTU records, and people wanting information on family members and past issues etc.

- Research is done consistently to prepare for S.A. History Month which is held in May of every year (Cancelled in 2020 due to COVID). Historical topics are suggested by the Government, and the exhibitions are open to the public. We take part as we see this as an opportunity to bring the community to us.
- Throughout this past year, organisation of our records has been a high priority. We have commenced a register in which we will be able to archive records, papers and any other materials we are in possession of. This is a long, and much overdue, task that we will continue to work on throughout the year. We expect that the archive register will come in handy when preparing for large events such as History Month and Conventions.
- Contact is made throughout the year from family members who are interested in knowing more about their relatives.
- We recently came into possession of some old records from Eynesbury Senior College who were closing down and came across some literature from WCTU and contacted us to pass them on.

## **LOCAL UNIONS**

### **BRIGHTON UNION**

Miss S Williams

In 2021, the Brighton Union officially went into recess due to declining numbers and the inability for meetings to be held.

Prior to that, the Brighton Union had one meeting held in 2018. Some members gave Christmas gifts to the elderly and people living alone. One member places the WRS and DFK pages in a library and distributes them to the Sunday School Children and some of the church members. Help was given by members in the setting up of the Tea Rooms and History Display.

Due to COVID19 meetings have been limited. A combined meeting with Golden Grove/Modbury Union was held at the Office. This was followed by morning tea.

White Ribbon Signals and Drug Free pages have been placed in a local Library and handed out to adults and children at the Salvation Army Marion.

### **GOLDEN GROVE/MOVBURY UNION**

Joyce Martin – President Jenny Sweeney – Secretary

#### **Report of Golden Grove/Modbury WCTU Union**

**21st February 2022**

Our small group has not met regularly but the members continue to uphold the WCTU motto and have personally sent petitions to members of parliament regarding the “Abortion up to Birth” bill.

We joined the Brighton members for one of our get togethers at our very attractive Tea Rooms which are serving a great purpose in our community, thanks to the exceptional efforts of Janny Delaney and Karen Edwards.

Joyce Martin (President)

Jenny Sweeney (Secretary)

### **ALICE SPRINGS**

Mrs S Bird

Sharon Bird represents the WCTU in the Northern Territory and when able, visits the Aboriginal Communities in various areas. Sharon shares WCTU literature, and donations from the WCTU S.A. which have been given to local Aboriginal children. A trip to some of these communities is planned for July 2019. National WCTU has sent a supply of wrist bands, FASD jotter pads and band aid packs for distribution.

In late 2019 and early 2020, Sharon travelled to remote communities and was able to share WCTU band aid items along with leaflets regarding FASD, also along with children's Christian activity packs, which included pencils donated by WCTU.

As for the Work of WCTU in the Northern Territory in 2020-2021, a letter to the editor was submitted regarding the Woolworths Grog Shop to be built in Darwin. Sharon also aired our views on ABC local radio.

Sharon attends along with others a prayer meeting on Monday mornings at the chapel in the Alice Springs Hospital. Our primary prayer is against the abortions performed there each week but our prayers cover many issues. Sharon places WCTU literature and items there.

Sharon has also travelled to Adelaide to partake in the March for Life with members of South Australia. Sharon had the privilege of holding the large banner and spoke to many of the speakers from the rally.

During COVID quarantine and lockdowns, Sharon hand delivered candy canes to the COVID Quarantine Facility in Alice Springs with a card containing words from the gospel on a WCTU card.

In 2021, South Australia WCTU donated money for the KITES Program (Kids in Town, Engaged In School) which is a program that encourages young children that come into the town and participate in school activities and learning.

WCTU SA donated funds to Alice Springs in January 2022 for a situation which is nothing short of crimes against humanity, especially for the most vulnerable in our society. Some Aboriginal communities with low vaccination rates have been banned from working and even entering shops to buy food. Many homes have had no power supply either.

Sharon has been working with a support group within the community, and we are pleased to hear that supplies to families have been received and power restored to some homes. Several individuals got hampers donated to them in appreciation for all of their hard work and community advocacy.