

# White Ribbon Signal



## Message from the President

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Did you make any new year resolutions? By now you will have formed some new habits, grown in your relationships with God and others and set patterns for better health if you have kept to them. It is only by God's grace we can do this. He can give us victory, confidence and encouragement. The theme for Convention this year is **JESUS IS THE ANSWER** and as we all look at the world around us, look at our community and families that we are all part of, we see devastation and ruin but as Christian women and as WCTU people we know that **JESUS IS THE ANSWER** to the world today and He always was. Let's hold to that belief and commitment and trust God to keep us growing as we share the temperance and salvation messages. WCTU has always done that and is committed to keep doing it.

Joy Butler

President WCTU Australia Limited



### Breathe Deep: An interview on Vaping.

The cruel rise of Vaping has shocked us all and discussions abound. Fortunately our Australian government has made some strong laws to curb the importation and sale of Vapes to children but it will take time to implement. Read/listen to this interview with respiratory health expert and anti-vaping campaigner, Professor Renee Bittoun from Australia. And remember - WCTU has an excellent brochure entitled VAPING which is available online or we can post it to you.

<https://signsofthetimes.org.au/2023/10/breathe-deep-an-interview-on-vaping-with-professor-renee-bittoun/>

## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**GET INVOLVED!**  
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[WWW.WCTU.ORG.AU](http://WWW.WCTU.ORG.AU)

South Australia was invited to host a WCTU stand at a Christian conference in the Adelaide Convention Centre.



Joy Butler and Tanja Curcic, visiting from Uganda, combined forces at the Cooranbong Mini Fair on Sunday, February 4.



Official publication of WCTU Australia - promoting a drug free lifestyle and Christian values in the home and community

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## PRAYER MATTERS

The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest. Matthew 9:37

Pray for-more members, more workers for WCTU

Pray for - young women with expertise to join us

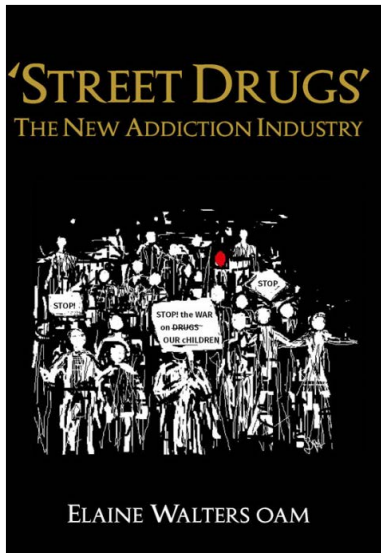
Pray for - the WCTU work in South Australia and Victoria

Pray for - a renewed interest and growth of WCTU in NSW

Pray for - the frontline workers in Australia who speak, write and campaign against illicit drugs - Gary Christian, Doctor Stuart Reece, Herschel Baker, Shane Varcoe, Kerryn Redpath, Sober in the Country, Jo Baxter, Jan Kronberg, Rosemary Honore, Greg Bloomfield - all these people are speaking to our governments and influencing the nation about the horrors and dangers of these poisons.

**REMEMBER** - to pray at noon every day - a long established tradition and routine of WCTU worldwide.

**'Street Drugs'** - The New Addiction Industry by Australian Elaine Walters OAM, has just been published and is a collection of essays about the dangers of psychotic drugs. Since 1983 she has committed herself tirelessly to drug education. She has travelled widely and conferred with government ministers, departments of health and university research institutes. She explains how devastating the harm-reduction movement is and how we all need to be



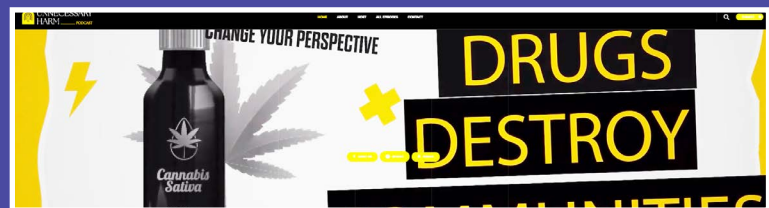
aware and awake about what is happening everywhere to legitimize the proliferation of mind-altering drugs to innocent young people and children. We are all in this fight to guard our nation and its future generations. It is a book of 56 essays and an extensive Appendix with opinions and observations by experts in the field. It is a book of importance and value for all who care about the growing and shocking illicit drug scene and its legitimization in Australia and the world.

<https://drugadvisorycouncilaustralia.org.au/street-drugs-book-launch/>



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## A Great Resource



Unnecessary Harm Podcast is a powerful platform dedicated to shedding light on the vital topic of anti-drug and alcohol advocacy.

In collaboration with the esteemed Dalgarno Institute and influential podcast hosts, you will find insightful discussions, impactful stories, and valuable insights aimed at reducing unnecessary harm caused by substance. Go to this website

[abuse.https://unnecessaryharm.com.au/](https://unnecessaryharm.com.au/)

Shane Varcoe is the host of this website and the podcasts. He is a seasoned professional in the field of youth and community work, boasting over 40 years of experience. His extensive career includes roles in various community-focused initiatives, engaging in nearly all key youth work areas, not least working within the juvenile justice system. The growing unnecessary harm issue of substance use is a key focus in various platforms of protective health and well-being education.

For the past 15 years, Varcoe has held the position of Executive Director at the Dalgarno Institute, an Alcohol & Other Drugs health education charity. Under his leadership, the institute advocates for prevention education, research, and a close proactive engagement with the Recovery Alumni sector.

Varcoe's dedication to his role is evident in his numerous contributions to the discourse surrounding drug education and policy nationally and internationally. He is a regular feature in radio spots and online platforms, delivering compelling workshops, seminars and talks on prevention and drug demand reduction. Furthermore, he has authored insightful content relating to drug policy and its impact on community resilience.

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## VICTORIA

We have renewed and updated our FASD warning advertising.

For many years we have had a contract with Motio with 10 second ads playing every 10 minutes at four medical clinics in the Dandenong area near our office. We renewed it for 2024 in Dec. 23 and we now have ads playing at Heartscope Victoria Dandenong, Eastern Medical Centre, North Dandenong Clinic, and a new one for us at Frankston Healthcare. The annual cost is \$5,000 + GST.

We have also had FASD warning ads on the back of three buses and have been changing the location of these regularly. This year we have signed a contract with Go Transit to have our advertisements on buses in Mildura, Latrobe Valley, Bendigo, Geelong and Shepparton.

Our new website is complete and can be accessed at <https://drugfreelifestyles.com.au>

*Anne Bergen, President*



## NEWCASTLE/COORANBONG, NSW

Joy Butler and Tanja Curcic, visiting from Uganda, combined forces at the Cooranbong Mini Fair on Sunday, February 4. Tanja displayed the Little Blue Shed products made by women in Uganda. A WCTU display invited people to visit our booth where we shared literature and our new look cards.

The small Newcastle Circle group met on February 5 and Helen Palmer read a beautiful devotional about Being Humble. We shared how this small group has prepared so many Care Bags for various places in Newcastle where people are sick or in great need. We discussed our vision for an expansion of WCTU in NSW. Pray for our future.



The Cooranbong group met on February 6 at Sunnyside convention centre where 16 women

came to hear Tanja's story. Tanja Curcic, from Sydney, found God after a breakdown in her life because of many years of smoking, alcohol and drug use. God found her and delivered her. She ended up in Uganda where she has built The Little Blue Shed where she is now building a wellness and recovery centre.

A worthwhile and blessed morning.

Reported by Joy Butler

*Helen Palmer and Joy Butler*

## HISTORY SNIPPETS - No. 5

### Prohibition in America



it is now 100 years ago since the Prohibition laws of America came into effect. From 1920-1933 the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors and imports and exports of the same, was prohibited. This subject has captured the attention of many over the years and much discussion, argument and debate, has raged. The WCTU was one organisation that was very involved with this and encouraged these laws to be set in

place. It was the first woman's society in the world to be built on the common framework of local, county, district and state affiliation under national direction.

Women rallied to the cause and they became the most important force in the temperance movement. By the 1880s, temperance had become the issue that drew tens of thousands of women to rally behind general women's and reformists' causes, demanding a more equal share in the political process.

We hear and read about the negative aspects of this time which included the rise of the Mafia, bootlegging, and the increase of crime but most of this was already in place before Prohibition. The benefits far outweighed the negatives. The Prohibition law was repealed in 1933 and in less than 10 years there were 600,000 alcoholics in America. (Prohibition was repealed at midnight on April 7, 1933. At 12.01 am, the brewers of Milwaukee and St Louis opened their gates and shipped 15 million bottles of beer. The first consignment from Anheuser-Busch went to the airport, from whence it was delivered to the White House and to pro-repeal lobbyists in New York by the company's new Clydesdale horses.) Now there are millions more alcoholics and millions of teens caught in the traps of alcohol and drugs.

Prohibition did not end alcohol use. What is remarkable, however, is that a relatively narrow political movement, relying on a relatively weak set of statutes succeeded in reducing the consumption of a drug that had wide historical and popular sanction. Some of the national benefit were - wife beating and lack of family support decreased 82%, drunkenness was down 55.3%, cirrhosis deaths decreased 50%, County hospitals had the lowest death rate in history, many correctional institutions closed, prostitution decreased, crime throughout the nation was down 38%, savings accounts tripled, families were better clothed, attendance at church and school improved, factory attendance and work output greatly increased, welfare assistance mission's work was cut in half.

Be assured Prohibition was a success.

Notes taken from National Prohibition - a National Right? Signal Press, WCTU, Catalogue No S13210

by Joy Butler 13/2/24



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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

\*\* We were invited to host a WCTU promotional stand at a Christian conference in the Adelaide Convention Centre which saw 2,000 people in attendance. We connected with some wonderful people, including our new sister Grace (pictured below).



We had no idea at the time, that we have supported Grace's community Yuendumu in several ways through our precious member Sharon Bird in Alice Springs. Grace visited our tea rooms during her visit to Adelaide and is considering becoming a WCTU member. We believe that some of the old WCTU wells will be re-dug throughout the Northern Territory.

\*\* Our 'We Care Box' ministry has been going for several years, since the death of my son Nathan. The boxes are distributed through Major Crime to the families of homicide victims. These boxes contain a Christian book on grief, tea, coffee, long life milk, biscuits etc. We have recently been approached to provide more boxes to other Victim Support Officers who deal with victims resulting from other trauma crimes. Statistically many criminal offences are caused while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

It is a blessing to let these unfortunate people who are victims of such terrible circumstances know that we care and pray for them.

\*\* Our wonderful new property that provides accommodation for remote workers is gradually being transformed room by room. Some of our men who are long term guests, appreciate our WCTU Quarters, and always help with the garden and planting.

\*\* We have been selling and promoting non-alcoholic drinks for decades. We are pleased to say that prior to Christmas, we sold 60 bottles of sparkling grape juice to customers who chose to use them for Christmas celebrations and gifts. We also serve glasses of these drinks in our tea rooms, and people are pleasantly surprised at how delicious and refreshing they are. Many buy some to take home!

We heard a story from a man who said the drinks saved his wife's life. She was an alcoholic, and he used to tip half the champagne bottle out and fill the other half with sparkling grape juice. She was gradually set free from her addiction. Such a wonderful story of this man's love for his wife.

Reported by Karen Edwards

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