

WHITE RIBBON SIGNAL



Prayer Matters

A zoom prayer meeting takes place every Tuesday morning at 9.00 am. We pray for WCTU in Australia, and especially for younger members to join. We pray for personal prayer requests connected with alcohol, drugs or smoking. If you wish to join - email joymariebutler@gmail.com

Education

Cannabis is a feature in this edition of WRS. Current research, just released, demonstrates that numerous cancers are caused by cannabis. The production and sale of cannabis causes permanent and ongoing disabilities, untold sorrows - violence, road tragedies, illness and death. We must speak up.

Did you know....

In **1910** Victoria WCTU purchased Carlisle House, Exhibition Street, Melbourne for Headquarters. In **1913** the Czar of Russia decreed Prohibition. Six o'clock closing adopted in South Australia and Victoria. **1917** Prohibition in USA decreed but only became operative in **1920**. Thousands of saloons, breweries and distilleries closed. Death rate considerably lowered. **1926** Population of Australia 6 million. **1927** Government from Melbourne to Canberra.



Editorial - President

The new year has arrived and are we ready to face what might come? Only with God can we do this confidently. He alone, knows the future and because He has led in the past, we can trust Him now. The central verse in the Bible says it clearly - *It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. Psalm 18:8*

As we face 2022 I invite you to consider where WCTU needs to be. I urge you to pray for God's guidance. CONVENTION will take place in Adelaide and we will be seeking God's ways to structure this significant and famous organisation we are part of.

Here are some questions to help us reflect on our path -

- What have we accomplished?
- Who have been some outstanding leaders in Australia?
- Can we continue as we are?
- Are we relevant in today's society?
- What do we need to do with our resources?
- Where to from here?
- Who will say 'Here am I'? Who will say 'I will go'?

Joy Butler





News from all over

Solomon Islands - Muriel Buga reports that they observed World Day of Prayer and Founders Day.

Norway - During the year all organisations can choose an element of their work and have free public relations over the whole country. WCTU has chosen September 28 (Frances Willard's birthday) to do a special project.

Japan - A seminar for young adults on the topic of alcohol and caffeine was conducted last year. A movie, telling the story of their first JWCTU president, Kajiko Yajima will be released soon.

India - The Covid-19 pandemic has not stopped the growth of WCTU in this vast country. They have been able to start three new Unions and are able to get TV and newspaper coverage.

Uganda - Rebecca Namugumya, in Uganda, has asked us for information and help to start a group in that African country. She is focussing on FASD.

Kenya - Florence and Pastor Macharia continue to speak to youth and children. Pastor Macharia presents the pledge cards with much aplomb and hundreds of children sign it.

Cannabis - Current news

Professor Albert Stuart Reece and Clinical Research

Dr Reece is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Western Australia and the Edith Cowan University which are both near Perth in Western Australia. He works at the South City Family Medical Centre in Brisbane where he compassionately cares for patients. He has a concern for the poor, for those affected by drugs and takes time to listen.

For many years Dr Reece has published clinical and epidemiological research and reviews of basic science relevant to drug use and exploring the health implications of the known harms and risks of drug use and drug dependency. This body of work is ethically approved by various Human Research Ethics Research Committees around the world. His most recent study, together with Doctor Gary Kenneth Hulse, has just been published by the Oxford Academic Press in the prestigious 'Environmental Epigenetic Magazine.'

This is a comprehensive research that Doctor Reece has produced and shows the tragic enormity of what cannabis can do. It causes many different types of cancers - more than alcohol or tobacco. It causes untold misery and harm - sickness, sorrow, upheaval and violence of every kind. It MUST NOT BE LEGALISED in Australia.

Professor Reece is seeking our prayer support that this message will be circulated widely in the world and that it will help governments make wise laws and decisions to stop the legalisation of cannabis. To read a full report of this ground-breaking research go to The 'Environmental Epigenetic Magazine' and see their recent articles - this research was published on February 3.

<https://academic.oup.com/eep/article/8/1/dvab015/6521073>

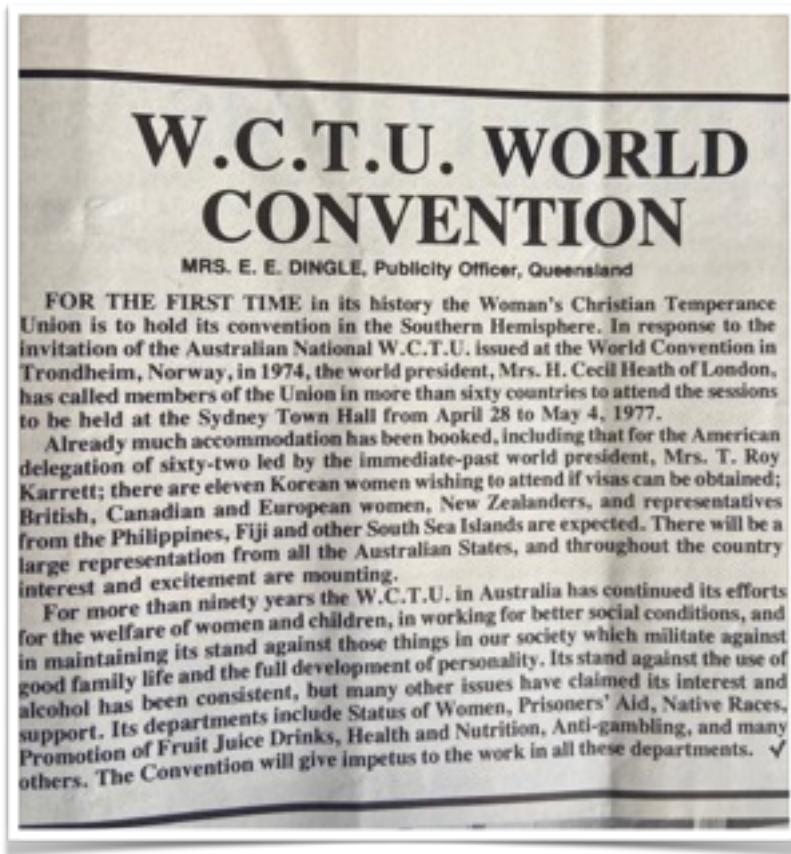
Cannabis and Marijuana - what's the difference? Are they the same?

Marijuana is the dried leaves and flowers of the Cannabis sativa or Cannabis indica plant. Stronger forms of the drug include high potency strains - known as sinsemilla (sin-seh-me-yah), hashish (hash for short), and extracts.

Of the more than 500 chemicals in marijuana, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, known as THC, is responsible for many of the drug's psychotropic (mind-altering) effects. It's this chemical that distorts how the mind perceives the world. In other words, it's what makes a person high.

The amount of THC in marijuana has increased over the past few decades. In the early 1990s, the average THC content in marijuana was less than 4 percent. It is now about 15 percent and much higher in some products.

With permission from - National Institute on Drug Abuse; National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Historical Announcement-1977

Today I came across this advertisement/announcement in an old 1977 church newspaper in a folder in an Aunt's room in a nursing home. I thought of the hundreds of women who probably attended this world Convention held in the Sydney Town Hall in April and May, 1977. Notice all the departments they focused on - Status of Women, Prisoners' Aid, Native Races, Promotion of Fruit Juice Drinks, Health and Nutrition, Anti-Gambling and many others. I wonder just how many of our current members attended this event and could tell us more. If you were there please do write and tell us about it. You can email or write to us - see how to in the Directory on page 4. Joy Butler

CONVENTION - WCTU Australia Ltd - 2022

The 43rd National Convention will take place on March 22-24 at

The Retreat, West Beach Parks, Military Road, West Beach, South Australia 5024

When many of you read this, you will be here with us in Adelaide. This will be a time of friendship, learning, instruction and decision making for the future of WCTU. Please make this a matter of prayer and let God lead us. Guest speakers will include - **Senator Alex Antic, Bronwyn Mison, Professor Maggie Brady, Paulette Cairns and Detective Debbie Gibson.** There will be a bus excursion and lunch by the Torrens River on Thursday. A visit to the South Australia WCTU tea rooms will be a highlight. WCTU Conventions have a reputation for being times of great fellowship and inspiration. See you there - or if you're here - HERE.

Taskforce 4 Drug Prevention

A Taskforce 4 Drug Prevention has been formed and made up of organisations who share the same values and concerns about the SAD poisons - smoking, alcohol, drugs - as we do. They are **Drug Free Australia, Dalgarno Institute, Drug Advisory Council of Australia, Teen Challenge and WCTU Australia.** We are working together to make a bigger impact for the issues surrounding those concerns we all have for our nation and specifically for our youth and children. Most are Christians who are involved in their communities and are seeking ways to be more effective with their messages of a smoke, alcohol and drug-free environment. WCTU has the longest history and resources to share. We invite your prayerful support as we negotiate the path of working together in the most efficient and wise way. We are hopeful that this collaboration will form a stronger network, then influence and impact the nation.

Mary Trim - message

Mary, now more than 90, lives in Queensland after living in England and Australia where she has been a teacher and a writer. She writes for Quadrant, the leading general intellectual journal of literature, poetry and historical and political debate published in Australia.

Mary writes for our WRS about her mother, Harriet Buckingham - *"She was an active member of the WCTU all the years of my childhood and continued attending until she died at age 86. She was vice president of the Hastings, New Zealand Union. She ran Band of Hope temperance programmes for children. She wore the white ribbon badge of the WCTU with pride and only replaced it when she was made a life member and given the bigger badge of honour. She was a WCTU person to the core, a loving, caring Christian in the community and widely known and respected for it."*

Mary is active in following the current debates in government and had this to say about the recent discussions regarding misconduct and women wanting change in our parliament - *"However, change is not going to result from legislation alone. The place for real modification lies deeply in the intrinsic moral construct of homes throughout Australia which, in consequence, influence the behaviour of society. Such homes breed young men and women of true grace. Denominational schools and religious faith have potential for the same influence of metamorphosis. The old fashioned habit of respect for God, community and country made the home a place where the moral code, and the finality of an umpire's decision, bred inbuilt strength in the nation...Young women have had a long turn at constantly speaking out for their cause. It seems to me it is now time for fathers and mothers, mature adults, to actively set the scene and turn things around in steady transformation before a complete decline of decency."*

For the full letter - see on our website

Dates to Remember

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 4 - International Prayer Day

March 22 - World Water Day

May 15 - International Day of Families

May 31 - World No Tobacco Day

Finally ...

"By God's grace, work is still being carried out all around the world, and a Plan of Action for 2022-2025 has been prepared."

Margaret Ostenstad - World President, WWCTU

See website for more detail www.wwctu.org

DIRECTORY

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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