

WHITE RIBBON SIGNAL



Prayer Matters

Pray for government laws to be enacted to safeguard families. **Pray** that alcohol will not be so easily available. **Pray** for cooperation and collaboration between organisations that promote sobriety. **Pray** for those who are working hard to teach how to be sober. **Pray** for our children everywhere. **Pray** for WCTU world and national leaders. **Join our Tuesday zoom prayer meeting - 9-9.40am.** Contact Joy Butler

Education

What is cocaine? Cocaine is a stimulant drug. They speed up messages travelling between the brain and body. Cocaine comes from the leaves of the coca bush (*Erythroxylum coca*), native to South America.¹ The leaf extract is processed to produce three different forms of cocaine: Read more - <https://adf.org.au/drug-facts/cocaine/>

Did you Know?

The history of WCTU Australia is replete with amazing women of purpose. We must not forget how we have been led. Their stories inspire us. Read about two, in this edition of WRS - Jessie Rooke and Ada Bromham. Buy the book.

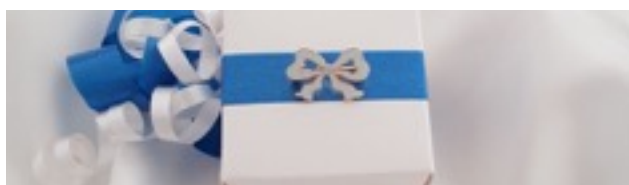


Christmas Again

Do we ever get tired of Christmas? I hope *you* don't. It is a time of celebration and love - love for each other and for God. The story of Jesus coming to earth as a babe, who lived and died in our place, is the most wonderful story in all history and creation. God made and has a plan and we can trust Him. Let us share that message wherever we are - share the hope we have for a better life here and a wonderful future beyond. Let's keep telling that story again and again and again

The same as we tell the story of WCTU again and again and again tell the story of healthy living, pure living and tell how God has provided the best drink and food possible - fruits, grains, nuts and vegetables and the grape juice in its purest form. The temperance message is a beautiful message that can never tire. Praise God more and more people are believing this and living lives of sobriety.

Bless you and your family this Christmas. *JOY BUTLER*





Look for recipes for non-alcohol drinks online. See Pinterest WCTU no-alcohol drinks. Buy from Alcofree in Tuggerah, NSW. <https://www.alcofree.com.au/> Buy Patritti Grape Juice. Drink the juice of the pure fruit. Experiment. Mix juice with ginger-beer or Soda water. Use plenty of ice. Decorate glasses. Use water jugs and put fresh fruit and mint in the jug with lots of ice. Make fruit smoothies. Blend, mix, taste, drink - ask God to bless and praise Him for all He has provided. Expect His blessings

Message from Rhona Theodore - General Secretary, WCTU Australia Ltd and Social Service Director, World WCTU

Over the last 18 months, many of our 'links' that we took for granted – family, church, friends, places - were broken. New words came into use - restrictions, social distancing, curfews, lockdowns, quarantine, isolation, as well as holiday cancellations and fines.

We learned new ways of communication. Zoom became a household word. It provided a way for schools to continue, work from home, church services and prayer meetings. Organisations and companies continued to hold meetings.

Some companies and small businesses collapsed, some flourished and in particular alcohol outlets. The advertisements during this time imply that alcohol is necessary to survive the pandemic!

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) suggests that the alcohol industry is heavily marketing its products during the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only are the alcohol ads relentless, they're also full of messages telling us to drink and drink more. Even when we need to stay at home, it has never been easier to buy alcohol. Alcohol companies and liquor retailers are promoting free delivery, including delivering 'directly to your door'. Discounts and giveaways and bulk purchases are offered. Research shows they encourage people to buy more alcohol.

With restrictions lifting, there is a sense of freedom – particularly at this time when plans can be made for Christmas and holidays. However, we need to be aware that the problems of drug use, alcohol and family violence have not been solved, and there are still vulnerable people needing help.

Looking at the past and working for the future, WCTU are fighting back – with our ads on buses, in doctors' surgeries, letters to MPS, linking with like-minded organisations.

By caring for the earth God made, we are caring for other people too. I thank God that even in these times of sadness and despair, loneliness, and hopelessness, we can feel God's presence.

Christmas time reminds us that He is always there. The light of the world.



Alcohol consumption in Australia - and CANCER

From a cancer prevention perspective, no amount of alcohol consumption is safe.

Drinking alcohol is widespread in Australia. Nearly 80% of Australians aged 18 years and over report consuming alcohol in the past 12 months.[6] While consumption levels are generally within the NHMRC 2020 alcohol guidelines, 17% consume more than the recommended 10 standard drinks per week, 25% drink at risky levels on a single occasion, and 45% drink with the intention of getting drunk.[5,7,8]

There has also been an upward trend in rates of drinking among Australians aged 70 years and over, with older people being more likely to drink daily and to exceed the recommended 10 standard drinks per week than younger people.[7] These trends are concerning given that 4.5% of the burden due to cancer (as a disease group) and 40% of the burden due to liver cancer in Australia is attributable to alcohol consumption.[9] Among Australian women, 67% of all cancers attributable to alcohol consumption were breast cancer.[10]

There are 8 types of cancer attributed to alcohol consumption. There is now strong evidence that alcohol consumption is linked to several cancers, including cancers of the mouth and upper throat, pharynx, larynx (voice box), oesophagus (food pipe), breast, stomach, liver, and bowel.[1,2,3]

Read the complete report, with illustrations, here - <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/about-cancer/document-library/cancer-institute-nsw-evidence-brief-alcohol-and-ca>

Bert Newton's mother and WCTU

Bert Newton's mother and grandmother signed for women's vote in Australia, 1891. Bert's mother was given help by WCTU and was an active member. Watch the SBS Program 'Who do you think you are?' Season 11, Ep. 2. WCTU is mentioned 34.00 - 39.00 if you don't want to watch it all.

View ...



<https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1736874563504/who-do-you-think-you-are-bert-newton-s11-ep2>

History - WCTU in Australia - Two Good Women

“**Jessie Spinks Rooke** was born in London on September 10, 1845, the eldest daughter of William and Catherine Walker. She married Peter Charles Reid in Melbourne in 1867 and after he died, she married Charles Rooke in NSW on 14 August 1883. Jessie and Charles Rooke moved to Burnie in the early 1890s, and Jessie Rooke continued her involvement with the Burnie, Tasmania Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). She was elected president in 1894. The WCTU emerged as leaders of the Tasmanian suffrage campaign, believing that women's right to vote was essential to protect the safety and dignity of women and children. In 1896 Jessie set out on a votes for women campaign with fellow women's suffrage advocate, Georgina Kermode. Not even the onslaught of severe winter weather could deter them from the 200-mile journey by draughty train and rickety coach. Wherever they went there were large public gatherings to meet the women. They collected campaign funds and distributed leaflets and put their case that common justice for women meant Franchise. By the end of the tour thousands of Tasmania's had signed their petition calling for votes for women.” By Rodney Croome - Read more of this story in our Connector - September, 2021 edition. Cont

DIRECTORY

“**Ada Bromham** was a Western Australian feminist who was involved in a number of progressive movements in the 1930s. Beside her work in WCTU as Recording Secretary, she stood for parliament. She corresponded closely with Mary Bennett and worked with her to advocate for Aboriginal rights. Both Mary and Ada had the class, education, and social privilege to enable them to focus on this work and devote time to the cause of championing human rights and more specifically, Aboriginal rights.

She did a driving tour with Isobel McCorkindale (national director of education campaigns in WCTU) throughout Europe, Soviet Union and Asia (20 countries) in 1935. She saw what Hitler was doing in Germany, was concerned and fearful of socialism. She feared that Britain would again soon be at war.” By Rhona Theodore and Joy Butler

REMEMBER NOVEMBER 25 - International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women

The Shadow Pandemic

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, emerging data and reports from those on the front lines, have shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, has intensified.

This is the Shadow Pandemic growing amidst the COVID-19 crisis and we need a global collective effort to stop it. As COVID-19 cases continue to strain health services, essential services, such as domestic violence shelters and helplines, have reached capacity. More needs to be done to prioritise addressing violence against women in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

UN Women provides up-to-date information and support to vital programmes to fight the Shadow Pandemic of violence against women during COVID-19.

For more information and to know more - read
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day>

‘Alcohol plays a role in about 50% of sexual assault cases.’
Doctor John Ashton

Finally

Pray and Plan for **Convention** next March 22-24, 2022 in Adelaide, South Australia. Watch for further announcements about this.

Subscribe to our **Connector** - monthly newsletter from WCTU Australia Ltd. This is on email and can be seen on the website.

Read James 3:13,17,18 ‘Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom...But the wisdom that is from above is first pure then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.’”

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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