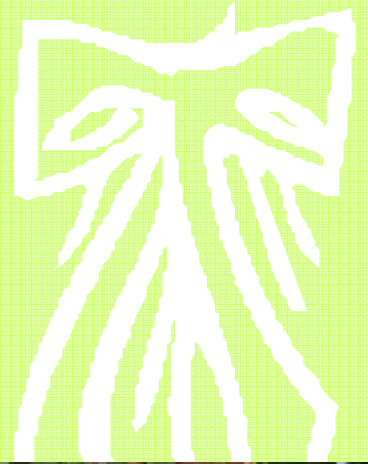


White Ribbon Signal

August, Sept, Oct. 2008
Volume 113 No. 3

National WCTU Mission Statement -

"To promote a drug-free lifestyle and Christian values in the home and community"



No Binge Drinking for Jess! Binge Giving was the way to go

A 21st pyjama breakfast birthday party where alcohol was discouraged has attracted more than 160 people who donated over \$4,200 for orphans in Africa after the 'birthday girl' decided to forgo presents and ask for monetary donations instead.

The 21 year old Engadine woman, Jess Gaskell from the **Engadine Anglican Church**, has now helped boost donations to more than \$17,000 for the orphanage in Africa.

"We are trying to raise as much money towards the \$20,000 target needed by the charity *African Enterprise* for the establishment of an orphanage in Malawi, in Africa, by the end of the year.

Ms Gaskell said the orphanage would be funded through the Australian arm of African Enterprise, which raised \$3 million dollars last year for their work in Africa.



Jess Gaskell and Sally Crook of the **Engadine Anglican Church**, Sydney who are passionate about raising money for African orphans.

"I was delighted with the response of the 160 people who attended my party, it was an awesome way to celebrate," Jess Gaskell said.

"The least I could do was to forgo presents at my 21st and offer the money we raised to those in massive need of food and shelter and the hope that God's word brings.

"There was no silly binge drinking at my party - just binge giving," said Jess.

"People I don't really even know have been coming up to me giving me money for the kids. This is adding to the \$4,000 a friend of mine at Heathcote raised from her 21st."

"Just last Sunday a man came up to me at church and put \$100 into my hand and said to give it to the orphanage.

"A staggering 15% of the population has AIDS leaving many children parentless and living on the street without food, education and health care. There are about one million orphans in Malawi, half as a result of their parents having died of AIDS," Jess Gaskell said

Congratulations to these young people!

May we see more **Binge Giving**

Thanks to Patrick Kennedy at <media@kennedycommunications.net> for article and photo

NEWS FROM EUROPE

The European Union Health Commissioner called on the alcohol industry to stop marketing to youth, but stopped short of recommending legislative action, *Reuters* reported April 16. Speaking at the European Alcohol and Health Forum in Brussels, Androutla Vassiliou, the health chief of the 27-country region, said that alcohol was a factor in 195,000 deaths in the EU annually. Given that over 5 percent of those deaths involved automobile accidents, she noted that youth were significantly at risk.

Several industry leaders, among them Anheuser-Busch, Diageo, Heineken International, and Bacardi-Martini, have stated they are committed to limiting alcohol abuse. But Vassiliou said the companies need to do more.

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*According to the UK's Institute of Alcohol Studies -
"1 in 4 deaths in young men and
1 in 10 deaths in young women
Aged between 15 and 29 are due to alcohol!"*

London's escalating battle with teenage drinking and violence has sparked a policy shift with parents to be held accountable under the new Youth Alcohol Action Plan with parenting orders and anti-social behaviour contracts being issued to young people. (7500 children under the age of 14 were admitted to hospital for alcohol related health problems during the past 5 years).

Meanwhile, like the WCTU around the world, in the UK, members are trying to curb the explosion in teenage binge drinking by educational initiatives and taking every opportunity to present information supporting a drug-free lifestyle under the leadership of Mrs U Wardle (President) Dr G Stretton (Secretary) with Mrs M Ayres, Miss R Ayres and Mrs W Kachachi

Say "NO" to Violence against Women Campaign

"We know that violence against women is a problem with a solution," said UNIFEM Executive Director Inés Alberdi. "We know that it takes laws to end impunity; resources to provide protection and services to survivors; and above all, political will. The Spanish Government has shown its leadership on all of these fronts," she said.

UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman thanked Minister Aído: "Your leadership sends a strong signal and is a ray of hope to women who experience violence. I continue to be shocked again and again, as I listen to women describe how they have been caught in a cycle of violence against them. You are in the vanguard of world leaders who recognize that it is a woman's human right to live free from violence."

Violence against women is probably the most pervasive human rights violation, affecting as many as one in three women and girls. Since resources are urgently needed, the **Say NO** campaign calls for support to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

- A new Australian study concludes that violence rose in Melbourne communities as the density of alcohol outlets increased, 'Medical News Today' reported May 6.
- The 'Times of India' reported May 27 that a group of 11 Southeast Asian nations has proposed that the World Health Organization (WHO) establish Oct. 2 -- Mahatma Gandhi's birthday -- as **World No Alcohol Day**. The proposal was made by India and accepted by the World Health Assembly this week. A final vote on the plan would take place at the assembly's executive board meeting in January 2009.



- **ALCOHOL IN THE HEALTH NEWS**
Researchers found an apparent link between heavy drinking or heavy smoking by people in their 40s and the development of Alzheimer's disease decades later, *Health Day News* reported

The White Ribbon Association (equivalent to WCTU in Australia) participated in an Educational Show for professional teachers displaying and giving away literature and aids for drug education. *Photo courtesy White Ribbon Association*

CANCER RESEARCH

The ABC last month featured the Cancer Institute Report which draws together the results of an international audit of recent cancer research.

The Report found that consuming two alcoholic drinks per day increased a person's risk of mouth cancer by 75 per cent, and women's breast cancer by 22 per cent.

Assistant Health Minister, Verity Firth said, "We don't want to have a general scare but the fact of the matter is that increased alcohol, in terms of the number of average drinks per day, will increase the risk. The risk is around 10 to 20 per cent per average drink but if you have two average drinks every day of your life then that's the increased risk you're running".



*Two drinks per day
= Risky Behaviour*

Linking the problem to a solution!

The Alcohol Linking Program which was developed in NSW which has been adopted in South Australia and New Zealand has reduced intoxication in licensed premises and some mayhem on the streets. Linking Data enables Police to identify premises that are serving unsafely and notifies management that their venue has a problem. It means that police can target problem areas and insist that they adopt safer serving practices and other improvements. It saves lives, injuries, accidents, hospital beds and police work.

Should other States adopt this?

CURB BINGE DRINKING?

CURB BINGE DRINKING?

- In Queensland, parents who supply underage children with alcohol for parties and celebrations will face fines of up to \$6000
- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has backed a proposal for TV alcohol advertising be banned before 9 pm
- Queensland premier Anna Bligh claims that charging nightclubs a fee of \$17,500 to trade between midnight and 5 am will curb binge drinking and assaults and anti-social behaviour
- New study into Youth Drinking has found that young people are drinking earlier i.e. 50% of young people has had a full drink by 15.5 years and by age 18, 50% males and females are risky drinkers.
- Comment from a teenager - "kids think drinking is a game"
- WA Government wants to extend the ban on full strength takeaway alcohol at Fitzroy Crossing after "brilliant" results from a 6 months trial.
- AFL Players Assoc Chief Executive, Brendon Gale, says binge drinking is the major concern among members.
- NSW Police are actively enforcing laws prohibiting the secondary supply of alcohol to minors. These are the toughest laws in Australia.



Congratulations to the Uniting Church Investments for black listing Coca Cola because this company is now heavily into breweries and alcohol and could no longer be called "an ethical investment"

White Ribbon Signal



Some participants in the **NSW Luncheon Program** including Mrs Bernice Cardwell NSW State President, and Mrs Ellen Chandler National President, both centre Front.

The Luncheon was a very happy occasion with 160 persons representing Churches, Members of Parliament and other organizations, as well as WCTU members present in the magnificent Strangers Gallery at Parliament House.

Mrs Cardwell presented the theme and the history of WCTU in NSW, Mrs Chandler a challenge to find new ways of working and Dr Keith Suter was the keynote speaker.

PATRITTI

NON ALCOHOLIC NATURAL
GRAPE & FRUIT JUICES

Varieties available:

Dark Grape Juice
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Apple Juice
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Dr **KEITH SUTER**, Consultant for Social Policy at **Wesley Mission Sydney** speaking at the NSW WCTU Luncheon at Parliament House suggested that the WCTU can take heart from all the progress that has been achieved over 126 years. **After all, it has campaigned against one of the most powerful lobby groups in Australian history - the alcohol industry.** That industry has immense wealth and political leverage. But the WCTU has managed to keep the flame alight. True, there are still many problems relating to alcohol but there is an increasing recognition by government that more needs to be done. Indeed, on the morning of the luncheon the NSW Government foreshadowed new laws to make parents responsible for their drunken teenagers.

But the WCTU and other voluntary organizations have had to recognize that their organizations are in decline in Australia (and many other western developed countries). People are no longer joining them hence the declining membership (not least in churches themselves).

Work patterns have also changed and so people have less time for voluntary work. Meanwhile, women – the backbone of most voluntary organizations – now have their own careers and so have less time for voluntary work. There has also been the rise of an individualistic culture, in which people now think only of themselves. “Look out for Number One and don’t bother about others. The meek might inherit the earth but they won’t get the mineral rights. Do unto others before they get a chance to do it unto you”. People are now more reluctant to donate their time to the community.

Additionally churches themselves are no longer so active on the alcohol issue. Most Australian churches no longer provide official support to the anti-alcohol movement. These changes have meant that voluntary organizations have to confront new challenges. The most sensible ones are making conscious decisions about their future rather than just allowing their funds to be whittled away until they sink into insolvency. The NSW WCTU is making some changes of its own, including the creation of the WCTU Foundation to fund initiatives. (I am a trustee). There is still a need for organizations to champion the total abstinence approach and be positioned at the extreme end of the debate. They draw the middle more out to that end. Most people see themselves as “moderates” on most issues. The “middle” is defined by the end points. By taking such a hard line on alcohol, it forces the “moderates” out more to a tougher line than would otherwise be the case.

The risk here is that the hardliners won’t ever get government funding because government supports “harm minimization” measures (by suggesting a “safe” number of drinks). But there is lesson here from the campaign against smoking. A few decades ago, cigarettes were part of a soldier’s rations. Now no government would treat cigarettes in such a manner. I think that eventually government will treat alcohol as a very dangerous drug and be more active in opposing it. It is important for organizations to keep reminding government on the dangers of alcohol. To conclude, it is important we do not just repeat what our predecessors did; times have changed. Instead we need to follow their vision and adopt new strategies for the new era. Then **WCTU will have another exciting and fruitful 126 years.** (Keith Suter)

Around the Nation



GREETINGS to the ladies of the Korean Union in Sydney who do so much work through their music with a ladies' Choir. They also distribute leaflets, organize street stalls and garage sales to raise funds to regularly hold a Camp, particularly for Aboriginal Youth, in outback NSW. Pictured is the Korean Ladies Choir wearing National dress, singing at the NSW Luncheon in the Strangers Gallery, Parliament House with the backdrop of the magnificent gardens through the massive windows.

QUEENSLAND - A special Mothers' Day program was arranged at Trinity Union by Mrs Sharon Davis, entitled 'Women around the World'. Twenty countries were portrayed with costumes and culture. Mrs Mavis Leadbetter was the narrator and spoke of the various materials used, where they originated and materials mentioned in the Bible. She also demonstrated how to make a bonnet from a square scarf and showed a wide brown gardening bonnet from USA. Lunch Tables were decorated with souvenirs and crafts and flags from various countries. This day was also Mrs Myrtle Laban's 86th Birthday and celebrated with a cake. A Mothers' Day poem was read and Mrs Beryl Henzell received a gift as the oldest mother present.

Youth Star Award- David Mitchell, 17 a member of Drug-Free Christian Youth in Ipswich recently won this award for his fundraising and charity work. David has won many awards as a pianist and ballroom dancer but found time to assist a newly formed group called 'Christians in Action' to clean up a house and yard after it had been trashed. David has been encouraged by his mother Trish Mitchell



South Australia-Pictured Left to Right-Mrs Joyce Besanko, Mrs Joan Moyle and Mrs Jeanette Ferguson who were presented with long service Appreciation Certificates at a Luncheon at Kadina. Special greetings were given to Nance Burtenshaw who travelled to Kadina for the occasion

Welcome to new members in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales in recent weeks.



South Australia - State President, Mrs Dawn Giddings welcomed visitors to the Dedication Service of the work and the new building in Cowandilla - the highlight of this year's Convention. A number of members took part in the program with music provided by a Salvation Army instrumental ensemble, a soloist and excellent pianist. Mrs Wendy Sudron gave a summary of the State's history and Mrs Ellen Chandler the address.

Mrs Giddings and Mrs Chandler then toured Eyre Peninsula visiting smaller Unions and groups of members who were eager to hear WCTU news.

New Premises -255 Sir Donald Bradman Drive Cowandilla (below)



Check out websites -
www.wctu.com.au and for kids
www.dfk.com.au Tell your friends!

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All Welcome

New Members please complete this slip and forward to your State Office with membership annual fee of \$10 (includes 'White Ribbon Signal')

Membership PROMISE -

"I hereby solemnly promise, with God's help, to abstain from **all** intoxicating liquors, and all other harmful drugs, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of, and traffic in, the same".

Signed.....

My Name is

.....

Of

.....

Postcode

Email

WORLD WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION WORLD CONVENTION 2007



Resolution No 5. PEACE

WHEREAS nations world-wide are engaged in conflicts and wars to the detriment of their citizens, and

WHEREAS real and lasting peace can only be realized by those who know the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, as their Saviour, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union faithfully proclaim God's message of salvation to all with whom they come in contact.

Cross covered with butterflies symbolizing new life, seen at Kadina

WCTU World Day of Prayer 28th September



Young Mums and their babes at Newcastle NSW after the enrolment of the children as Little White Ribboners when they were presented with Drug Free Teddies complete with slogan No Drugs 4 Me and a white ribbon bow.