



Enjoy Chocolate?



Now is the time to take stock of things before Easter Eggs become an item on your shopping list even though they may well be displayed at a supermarket near you late January (Easter Sunday is April 8th this year).

Eggs have come to represent a symbol of the message of Easter with various shades of meaning. Some say the hollow egg represents the empty tomb and should only be given on Easter Sunday morning whereas the solid chocolate egg can be given on Good Friday. Others, of course, say, chocolate eggs have no meaning. Whatever your theological slant on these chocolate eggs, one thing is sure that if we purchase appropriately some millions of children and families around the world *may* have some benefit. Whereas indiscriminately purchasing any eggs because of the bright packaging or because you know the brand of chocolate may contribute to the plight of the children working in cocoa plantations - "cocoa slaves"

When you choose Fairtrade Certified chocolate this Easter you're helping, even if in a small way, to create a better and brighter future for those farmers and their families through the fair price they receive as well as additional funds to develop their communities and invest in everyday things like education and healthcare.



The most prominent brand name promoting Easter Eggs this year will be the Cadbury label with several options of Fairtrade Chocolate Eggs. While the Melbourne brand 'Chocolatier' operates two stores but also supplies to several of the big chains. Other supermarkets such as Aldi or IGA have stocks of the Fairtrade Chocolate which can be wrapped especially for Easter gifts. Investigate your nearby shops.

How does Fairtrade help?

Fairtrade prohibits child labour as defined by the International Labour Organization minimum age and the worst forms of child labour conventions. No person or product certification system can, however, provide 100% guarantee that a product is free of child labour. Fairtrade acts as an advocate for children, fighting the root causes of child labour and is proactive in preventing abuse and exploitation of children. Fairtrade works with producer communities but there are 215 MILLION CHILD WORKERS IN THE WORLD TODAY. They do not go to school and have little or no time to play. Many do not receive proper nutrition or care. They are denied the chance to be children. More than half of them are exposed to the worst forms of child labour such as work in hazardous environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities including drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict. Many industries use child labour e.g. Banana Plantations in Ecuador, Cotton fields and Mills in Egypt, Carpet Factories - India, Soccer Balls are sewn in Pakistan, Glass and Bricks in India, Fireworks in China and other countries, Clothing sewn in Bangladesh or Footwear in India and The Philippines, plus cut flowers and tea and cocoa. Then there is mining and quarrying and the most degrading of all -child prostitution

Some reasons to choose Fairtrade -

- Fair Pay and working conditions, supporting communities and workers
- Protects children
- Empowers the marginalized
- Encourages environment sustainability
- Workers are taught up to date methods
- Helps local economies to be sustainable
- MEANS WHAT YOU BUY MATTERS!

Children cotton picking in Uzbekistan by order of their Government with no exemptions



FAIRTRADE IS MORE THAN CHOCOLATE -

Fairtrade is a child, a family, a lifeline

WRS

The greater Manchester UK Police publicised the great range of accommodation they had available over the holiday period . Their staff configured some "tongue in cheek" advertisements and a website to let potential customers know the outcome of offensive and anti-social behaviour in a humorous way. They even added the complimentary "blue-light chauffeur service".

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder



The European Union has been circulating 15,000 postcards to policy makers throughout 20 countries requesting Warning Labels on Alcohol . They favour the graphic used in France M/s Beekman, head of the Temperance Union, has stated that women in Estonia are mostly aware of the possible effects of alcohol on their unborn babies but that knowledge does not change the routine behaviour of women.

Meanwhile here at home Research released by the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation showed that one in three Australian women are drinking alcohol while pregnant or breastfeeding. The numbers of children affected by FASD are believed to be **'only'** 2.7 in every 1000

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has launched an inquiry into and report on the incidence and prevention of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) in Australian communities. This report is due in coming months.

The Gillard Government has stated that it will implement Warning Labels on all alcohol containers joining a growing number of countries who have made this mandatory.

Let us hope that labels can be used as a tool to inform and support those who would say "No"

**IT'S TIME for
WARNING labels
on all alcohol**



Drunken Disorderly Inn

*Premier 5 Golden Handcuff Accommodation
with lots of bars*

Welcome to an unforgettable experience! - "The Drunken Disorderly Inn" offers award-winning accommodation whether you are looking for a one-night stay or a long weekend. We are open for guests 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and all our accommodation is thoughtfully located for your convenience within easy reach of all town centre pubs, clubs and magistrates courts.

Know someone whose behaviour warrants some time with us. Organise them a surprise stay by ringing us direct.



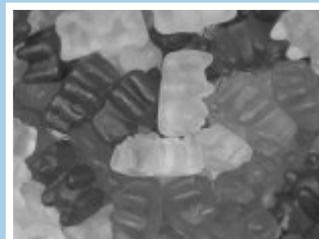
Do this anonymously through Crimestoppers on and they need never know it was your special treat!

With 12 branches across the region and compact, minimalist rooms, there's always space for one more reveller who's drunk too much and taken things too far.

Look after yourself or the "Drunken Disorderly Inn" will be looking after you!

Although it is tongue-in-cheek, it does carry serious messages highlighting the cold, stark experience of being taken into custody and how it can damage your reputation, relationships and work prospects.

Remember Gummy Bears?



These colourful little jubes are now popular as 'Boozy Bears'. They are put to soak in **vodka** and then consumed as a more palatable option to a 'shot'

Do you know that -

- *NSW PUBS have been banned from selling alcohol in mini buckets after a Sydney bar was caught pouring "shots" carelessly into the drinks.*
- a Melbourne school warned its students that they could be banned from graduating if they were caught drinking during Schoolies Week.
- *the Victorian Government is set to close the loophole which currently allows people to drink alcohol while driving, provided they are below the legal blood alcohol limit.*
- 103 young people aged between 10 and 17 found misusing alcohol or binge drinking have been diverted by South Coast (NSW) Police as part of a trial alcohol early intervention program. Program participants do an hour-long course about the effects of alcohol, rather than being cautioned or charged.
- *laws have been introduced in Western Australia to ban alcohol in certain individual residences in an attempt to prevent family violence. The Department of Child Protection can now apply to the Director of Liquor Licensing to ban alcohol in 'at risk homes'. Individual homeowners or tenants can voluntarily apply to have their properties declared alcohol free.*
- in the US one of every 24 drivers does so under the influence of drugs.
- *Roy Morgan Research into the links of alcohol with mental illness has found that alcohol abuse is strongly associated with anxiety disorders, social phobias, bi-polar depression and schizophrenia. Alcohol dependence increases the risk of mental health problems.*
- nearly one in ten Australians use alcohol when at work
- *New Zealanders consider their Alcohol Reform Bill as having "no teeth" in part blaming Australia's free-trade agreements.*
- new lung cancer diagnoses rose by 72% for women but fell by 32% for men in the last 25 years
- *plain packaging for cigarettes has been postponed again until December 1 instead of July 1 to allow the industry time to comply*
- over the holiday period, in Victoria alone 2610 drink drivers were caught, 397 drug affected drivers, 3584 persons not using seat belts

ILLICIT DRUG USE - Some facts

A Monash University study of 3398 drivers killed in NSW, Victoria and WA between 1190 and 1999 published in the Forensic Science International found drugs other than alcohol were present in a whopping 26.7% of cases. Another article in March 2011 revealed that blood tests on 1714 injured drivers taken to Victorian hospital showed that **35%** were affected by **drugs** and **29% by alcohol**.

The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine found that drivers affected by **cannabis** are **seven** times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than drug free drivers.

Drug driving is a serious threat to the community and is not treated as a health problem for the drug driver.

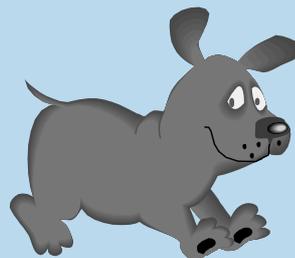
Note - Police Drug Tests cost \$50 each and are trickier to perform requiring three readings including a laboratory analysis.

The latest Australian national drug survey shows that most Australians oppose legalising illicit drugs. Only the attitudes of the 12% of Australians that had used an illicit drug were supportive. This means that the overwhelming majority of Australians do not tolerate illicit drug use.

Cannabis is the most used and tolerated illicit drug in Australia. Psychological distress, diagnoses and treatment for mental illness are highest among recent users of ICE, amphetamines, ecstasy, cocaine plus cannabis (*National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2011*)

A study by Canada's largest mental health and addiction hospital has found a link between drug use and Parkinson's disease. People who abuse methamphetamines and methamphetamine-like stimulants were more likely to develop Parkinson's disease than those who did not.

Thanks to Drug Advisory Council of Australia for this article



ODD SPOT

A British man has been banned from caring for a dog for 3 years after his six month old Labrador puppy, Max, got drunk on vodka and coke. He could not deal with Max because he was

himself too drunk. Police saw the dog staggering in the street and took it to the vet, where it was on an intravenous drip for 8 hours. Max now has a clean bill of health .. and a new home

THE GIFT OF TIME

One Year - 12 months, 52 weeks 365 days or 525,600 minutes. We have not purchased it but time comes to us freely as a part of life.

It is given equally to every person - every member of WCTU. Everyone has the same twenty-four hours in every day to use.

An important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off or adjust the speed it moves. As they say, time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is gone forever.

The meeting that seemed so important is now history. We cannot re-do or undo those memories.

Time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste this year. We can worry over it. We can use it for ourselves. Or, as good stewards we can further the work of WCTU at every opportunity.

The seconds are ticking away.... how will you use the next 30 days? *Contact your local WCTU office if you have time to spare.*

Greetings in 2012

How much do we know about the beginnings of WCTU or about World Conventions? We all seem to know about Frances Willard and the significant role she played in the expansion of WCTU world-wide.

But, do we know that Margaret Bright Lucas of England was the first World President of WCTU in 1884? Or that while Jessie Ackermann from the USA was working in Australia, Dr Kate Bushnell and Elizabeth Wheeler Andrew were doing magnificent service in India and Alice R Palmer went to South Africa in 1891? What adventurous women!

Just imagine leaving home and loved ones to journey across the world not knowing who you would meet, where you would live or what reception you would receive. WCTU women were travelling the world, speaking at meetings and establishing Unions as they travelled.

By the time it came to the second WWCTU Convention in Chicago in 1893 there were 13 affiliated countries but 40 were reported by the Secretary as being present. And the business? Well, significantly Frances Willard was elected World President. Otherwise, was it very different? Actually it was pretty much the same agenda as we might experience now. Election of Officers, reports, speakers, slight changes to the Constitution - the most important being that the affiliation fee would rise from one-half cent to one cent per member!

The Third Convention was held in London with 22 countries represented. World Convention Number Four was held in Toronto, Canada with 22 countries again represented by delegates. It was at this Convention that the Constitution was amended to include "without distinction of race or colour".

The Fifth held in 1900 in Edinburgh, Scotland with 35 countries making reports. Geneva was the chosen venue for the Sixth World Convention in 1903 and nine "World's White Ribbon Missionaries" were appointed including Mesdames Bessie Harrison Lee, Cummins and Vincent all of Australia. So the story continues crossing two centuries.

The good news is that the 39th World Convention will be held in Adelaide, South Australia, May 3 - 8, 2013. It is not so very far away - just about 70 weeks. Time to commence a savings plan, if that is helpful to you, and to put small coins in your Kanga Konnexion Box on a regular basis.

Your National Directors, along with the World Officers, are working hard to make sure that this Convention is one of the best. Don't miss it! An opportunity of a lifetime to be at a World Convention here at home in Australia! Join me in Adelaide

Ellen Chandler - President.



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South Australia Brighton Union members once again held a Christmas Luncheon for those feeling alone, have a need or just feeling "down". Beautifully knitted gifts made or donated by WCTU members plus a parcel of baby lotions, wipes, etc. were this year given to "Genesis Pregnancy Support".



A group of volunteers and supporters visiting the Adelaide Office. They are greatly appreciated!

Queensland

After much deliberation and correspondence with members, the State Union has ceased to operate. This does not mean that WCTU has ceased - far from it - There are several Unions alive and well and these will continue in their usual manner. The difference being that they will report to National Executive rather than to the State. All Circle members will be welcomed into the National Circle and be able to continue working in the way they have been used to and receiving WRS. It is an opportunity for all members to renew their commitment and acknowledge the great role WCTU has played, and can play, in community affairs. Now is the time to adjust, to accept National as the **administrative** focus and to support each other in love. **It is not the end but a new beginning!**

A tribute to the last Queensland Executive - members who continued to work in spite of great difficulties. We applaud you. And thank all who have ever contributed to the Queensland State Executive, who worked and held the flag up high for over 126 years. Thank you one and all.

Victoria has a new home - 6 Langhorne Street, Dandenong - spacious first floor premises which have been purchased, and will be shared with, Dalgarno Institute (COADE).



An exciting new beginning!

Mrs Doris Nuttall of Queensland celebrated 90 years young with a special Party Morning Tea at Trinity Union meeting followed by a delicious lunch which included a decorated Birthday Cake. Congratulations Doris!

Victoria's end of the year Luncheon was held in a different venue by supporting the Café operated by the Salvation Army in their recently renovated premises in Bourke Street Melbourne. A very nice meal was enjoyed and a donation made to the work of the Café where officers wait on the tables as part of their Certificate 1V work and under privileged can enjoy regular meals. We learned a little about its beginnings way back in the 1900's when the SA established their own style of "Fair Trade" tea having employees to pack containers of specially chosen tea from Fair Trade Plantations. Fair trade Tea and Coffee are available for purchase. Their work so impressed that it was decided to have a Morning Tea before our AGM meeting in March.

Become a Member? or Supporter or Volunteer? *Certainly!*

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NOTE NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

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Queensland - National Office

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And this grand building? - This is **The Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, South Australia** -the venue for the **39th World Convention of WWCTU in just about 70 weeks time.** Every room has a beautiful view of either the sea or the Adelaide hills and yes, that is the white sand on the beach in front of the hotel and the gentle waves lapping on the shore.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Adelaide for a World Convention!

breathe



The changing face of WCTU - new faces for a New Year. These members are part of the new 'Breathe' in WA, where most members are under 30 years of age - a modernisation of the traditional WCTU Union. Here they hopped on the Party Bus for a ladies day out filled with plenty of fun, a bit of indulgence but NO chance of a hangover the next day! Instead of cellar doors they visited places like Mondo Nougat, The Chocolate Factory, Barrett Lane, The Strawberry Farm and more!