

WCTU Australia Convention 2013

WCTU Australia's 40th Triennial Convention was held at the Stamford Grand Hotel, May 7th 2013, on the last afternoon of the World Convention. Because most of the inspirational speakers, workshops and reports had already taken place as part of the World Convention, the focus of the Australian Convention was to elect new Directors and to share brief reports of work done around Australia during the previous three years as well as proposals for future projects.

- Vanessa Lares from Breathe (WA younger women's WCTU) spoke about how they are trying to attract younger people – outlining activities that have been taking place, e.g. a non- alcoholic event with a bus load of ladies for a whole day of fun activities and a walk for FASD around a lake with a lovely tea.
- Newcastle Union, NSW, is continuing under the national banner with regular meetings every month with 10 ladies and about 30 members. They have gained 3 new members and registered two children as Little White Ribboners.
- South Australia WCTU has a support group of women who started 'care boxes' for those who have suffered traumatic events.
- Two Unions in Victoria have provided "Care bags" for a women's refuge.
- Two teams in Victoria do excellent Drug Education work in schools.
- A highlight of 2012 was the celebration of 125 years of WCTU in Victoria.

Retiring President, Mrs Ellen Chandler, was thanked for her excellent leadership during the past six and a half years. She has now been appointed as Director of Education and Research and will take over the E-Issues lobbying group. She will organise a National campaign to urge the government to mandate warning labels about Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

Anne Bergen

National President