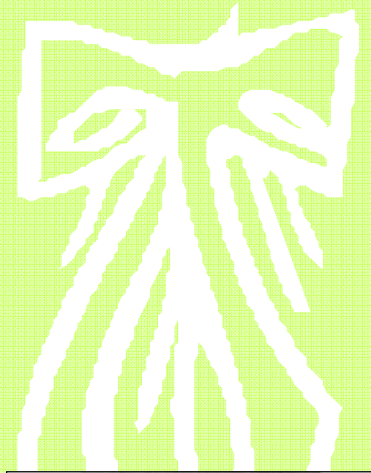


# White Ribbon Signal

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**National WCTU Mission Statement -**

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



## The Power of 1 + 1 + 1 etc = Many

A long time ago in England, around the 18th and 19th centuries, working class people lived unhappy lives in hovels of abject poverty. Dirt and mud and grime dominated everywhere they walked, worked and lived. Many relied on alcohol to provide a release from such torment. The sign "Drunk for a penny, dead drunk for tuppence" was seen on many public houses. It is said that John Wesley "saved England from a revolution" such as happened in France. Through spiritual values many were able to tolerate their living and working conditions but drinking was still rife. There was a need for responsibility by the factory owners and landlords. Some Methodist men in the village of Tolpuddle caught a vision that the workers needed rights and the way forward was to form together into a "Union". A group of people who together could present a strong case for change. Known as "The Tolpuddle Martyrs" they were not successful and endured the experience of being transported to Tasmania as convicts where they remained for years before being pardoned. But changes did start to happen. Working conditions improved through negotiations between owners and Unions.

About this time, in the 1830's, the 7 Men of Preston (UK) developed the very first Temperance Pledge - **"We agree to abstain from all liquors of an intoxicating quality, whether they be ale, porter, wine or ardent spirits, except as medicine."** This movement spread among the workers and even the word "teetotal" is credited to one of the seven, a fish hawker, who, when words failed him, readily coined whatever word he needed. From humble beginnings the Temperance Movement grew with many different societies scattered around the UK such as Sons of Temperance, Order of Rechabites, Total Abstinence Society and many others. The 1880's saw the beginnings of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. All of these groups made a great contribution to the living standards and moral values of the population. Caring, supporting, advocating and enabling working class people to be able to belong to organizations, to live positive lifestyles, free of fear, appreciating education, participating in rallies and finding friendship and support through membership.

Thomas Cook, a great temperance advocate, helped the process by organising group travel - charging a shilling per head for a rail excursion from Leicester UK, to a temperance meeting in Loughborough. This was the beginning of that great travel agency which, within 10 years, was organizing tours to America. Not many companies from 1841 exist today but Cook's Tours became part of the English language and the touring industry until sold by the family in 1928 but the name has remained. Just months ago Thomas Cook had its first listing on the London Stock Exchange after a long commercial adventure.

In the 1840's and 1850's Churches were being established throughout Australia, with many outstanding leaders, who, in the main, advocated a temperance lifestyle. This helped create 'a respectable working class' and an ethos which today we might call social capital. This was the climate that saw the birth of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Australia AND the recognition of equality for women, commencing with the right to vote. Women were important and equal to men!

*Today, for the first time for many years, alcohol is a political issue just as it was 200 years ago with drunkenness common in our cities, bashings and even deaths in drunken brawls with vomit and blood in the streets. Can we learn from the past as alcohol continues as a major health and cultural problem. The circle turns and .....*

**it is a breath of fresh air to hear that a NEW organization "The Association of Abstainers" has had its inaugural meeting in Melbourne with 30 signing the pledge at this meeting. Big plans are afoot to expand into country Victoria and interstate.**

***We assure the A of A that WCTU sends good wishes and support!***



Early temperance Posters—women's protest *above* and *below* an early French Poster showing what happens to a Guinea Pig after drinking alcohol - standing up excited and then, boom, drops dead.



## More news from UK

A survey of secondary school head teachers carried out by the BBC Six O'Clock News found that nearly 70% believed that drinking by pupils had increased over the previous 5 years predominantly in the under 16 age group. A majority thought that alcohol was a bigger problem in their school than drug abuse.

Here are some quotes -

*"Some pupils come into school drunk or with hangovers".*

*"It has quite a devastating effect. They come into school with a hangover, they've got a headache, they want to sleep, they can't concentrate."*

*"One head teacher was particularly alarmed to find people driving on to the school grounds to sell alcohol to pupils. The children then come and amass round the boot and buy cans and bottles of beer and alcopops to drink. [This was eventually stopped and drivers are no longer allowed on to the school grounds but they park nearby]*

***What is happening in Aussie schools? We know that smoking happens but ????***

## NEWS FROM JAPAN WCTU



World President, Miss Sarah Ward and Organisation Secretary, Mrs Margaret Ostenstad, visited Japan .

The previous week a visit had been made to Korea to set up an Institute for the

prevention of FAS.

Miss Ward gave a message through an interpreter, Pastor Jun Sato, and spoke of FAS Day, drinking by teenagers destroying brain cells before the brain development is complete at about 24 years of age. These cells are never restored. As an American, she apologised to Japan for America exporting tobacco to Japan.

A Prayer Meeting was held with about 35 attending. Prayer was in pairs using request cards. After the Prayer meeting and lunch all joined hands to sing "How Great Thou Art" in their own language. Mrs Ostenstad moved many with her rendition of "The Holy City".

Mrs Michiko Takagi, President of Ushigome Branch, said she realised that the work of WCTU is an uphill battle, not only in Japan, but in all countries.

## Did you Know that -

- there were 56,859 arrests for cannabis use - mostly in Queensland over the past year.
- ***the National Drug Household Survey estimates that 5,000,000 aged 14 and over used cannabis in the last year—the most commonly used illicit drug***
- cannabis, particularly with hydroponics, can be grown all year round from seed
- ***cannabis toxins cause cancer, chronic bronchitis, schizophrenia, hallucinations, paranoia, hormone production, impaired co-ordination and cognition***
- overall Australian alcohol sales have decreased by 11.4% compared to the same period last year.
- ***a 15 year old South Australian boy died from drinking home brew at a party.***
- 80% of Australians want tougher penalties on drink driving
- ***brewers in the UK are responding to declining sales by introducing new brands that they believe will be more attractive to women drinkers.***
- facing an epidemic of youth binge drinking, the Mayor of London is backing a call to supermarkets and other retailers not to sell beer, wine and liquor to customers under 18
- ***a Coroner in the US said - "He did have alcohol in his system but not that much, only 0.08. Nothing near toxic levels"***
- That the Australian Federal Police have made the world's single largest seizure of ecstasy - 4.4 tonnes with a street value of \$440 million
- ***the Scottish government has backed a new policy for illicit drug users to be put into rehabilitation rather than drug maintenance***
- Wine cheaper than water has been retailed by Dan Murphy making a glass of wine 25c per standard drink
- ***A new vodka drink infused with caffeine and guarana and marketed to women, is on a government hit list. Health authorities have warned that "p.i.n.k." may encourage dangerous levels of underage drinking.***
- "there is no such thing as a drug problem, there are only people problems" says a Counsellor working in the alcohol, drug and mental health fields for 20 years.



**Have you heard** about the lady who abstained from **TEA** for 40 years after claiming it made her “as drunk as a skunk”. In California in 1942 she spent the night with 2 friends who were broke. They drank tea for 3 hours. She then attempted to drive but everything seemed distorted. Dogs were as large as trucks. She waited out the tannic “fog” and never drank tea again. (*“New Yorker”* May 2008)



Andrew Fisher has his V8 Ute painted with the sign “Jesus for Life” and for the most part the ‘blokes’ have accepted the Christian racing team. “A few people think we’re a bit weird and freaky,” Andrew admits.

“The Jesus: all about life” program is a Bible study program run by the Bible Society,” explains Andrew. “It’s inter-denominational. All the major denominations have signed up for it. It’s a 6-week prime time media campaign. The idea is to try and focus back on Jesus and what he said. A program for schools “The Jesus Racing Program” is travelling around Queensland with 140 schools around Australia on the waiting list.

Many drivers have corporate sponsorship but with Andrew’s commitment to the Bible Society, he passes around the hat. There is also the 300/600 Club aiming for 300 people to give \$600 or 600 to give \$300 to raise \$180,000 to run the car. Individuals and businesses have given significant support. (*The Transit Lounge*).



## Bottled Water and the Environment

Australians love bottled water and spend more than \$500 million a year satisfying their thirst. But the bottled water industry is under pressure from environmentalists who say it is a waste of resources

- .Australians drank almost 280 million litres of bottled water last year.
- It may take up to 7 litres of crude oil and 1 litre of water to produce 1 litre of bottled water
- Tap water has only 1% of the environment impact of bottled water
- One bottle of water has the same impact on the environment as driving the car 1 km
- More than 65% of empty water bottles end up as landfill
- Because of the energy needed to produce, transport and dispose of water bottles, a litre of bottled water can generate up to 600 times the amount of carbon emissions than tap water
- Australian Dental Association has called on manufacturers to add fluoride to help tooth decay.
- Australia imports water from many countries—check your supermarket there may be more than 10 countries represented.

Many now feel the need to keep a water bottle with them all day long but the average, healthy individual needs to drink when they are thirsty. Water retention can depend on the speed with which water was swallowed. If sipped it was more likely to be retained but gulped and water leaves the body sooner.

*This article is largely from the Melbourne “Herald Sun” and it concluded that tea and coffee are fine for rehydrating—there are millions of people who get most of their fluids from tea without any ill effects.*

### Now there are - “MALTERNATIVES” called- “**BOLT**”

These come in three sweet flavours—raspberry, passionfruit and blueberry designed to appeal to younger drinkers. **Bolt** will be \$25 a carton cheaper than spirit premixes because it is derived from beer with all the beer taste stripped out.

A spokesman for Independent Distillers said it was not using a loophole in the new tax regime but said it highlights problems of taxing.

Note - Packaged beer is taxed at \$39.40 a litre of pure alcohol and RTD’s carry \$66.70 a litre of pure alcohol.

## White Ribbon Signal

**JESUS** - born in a stable and grew up as a carpenter's son.

He began his ministry by being hungry,

**Yet he is the Bread of Life.**

Jesus ended his earthly ministry by being thirsty.

**Yet he is the Living Water.**

Jesus was weary, **yet he is our rest.**

Jesus paid tribute, **yet he is the King.**

Jesus was accused of having a demon,

**Yet he cast out demons.**

Jesus wept. **Yet he wipes away our tears.**

Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver,

**Yet he redeemed the world.**

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter,

**Yet he is the Good Shepherd.**

Jesus died, **yet by his death he destroyed the power of death**

(Gregory of Nazianzus A.D. 381)

# PATRITTI

NON ALCOHOLIC NATURAL  
GRAPE & FRUIT JUICES

Varieties available:

Dark Grape Juice  
Golden Muscatel Grape Juice  
Apple Juice  
Canada Muscat Grape Juice  
Shiraz Grape Juice

For information concerning availability and distribution outlets throughout Australia,  
Contact the manufacturers:

**G Patritti & Co Pty Ltd**

13-23 Clacton Rd, Dover Gardens SA 5048  
Phone 08 8296 8261 FAX 08 8296 5088

Email -wines@patritti.com.au

## Alcohol in the News

**Child-bearing** Heavy drinking in a woman's teens and 20's may reduce the chance of motherhood later - a study from the US Washington University's School of Medicine has shown. The Researcher, Mary Waldron, said that this served as another warning against excessive alcohol consumption.

**Binge-Drinking** In May a meeting of Federal and State ministers with responsibility for drug strategy, recognised the urgency of the issue of binge drinking and pledged to fast track an interim report. However, the ministers have met again with no report yet to hand saying that 'extensive consultations with the alcohol industry and health groups' were underway. Now an interim report is due in October.

Our Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd, has pledged \$53.5 million to fight the binge drinking epidemic but he needs the States on board to achieve consistency to local laws particularly as to restricting parents' ability to supply alcohol to their children and ensuring that pubs and clubs serve alcohol responsibly.

### CONTROVERSIAL DRINK GUIDELINES DELAYED

We might well say, "delayed again"? The National Health and Medical Research Council released their draft guidelines for alcohol use in 2007. These caused a furore in some quarters and the final guidelines should be released by the time you are reading this.

The Draft Guidelines brought a new approach to drinking and many objected to 3 glasses of wine or four pots of beer being considered a "binge" and this term will probably be removed. However, the statement that 2 drinks a day for both men and women constitutes risky drinking will, we are told, remain unchanged.

Challenged to make the Guidelines really clear and understandable, they will now assert that 1 1/2 glasses of wine in a session increases the risk of long and short term harm.

The final Guidelines will, we believe, try to explain the difference between long-term health and short-term accident and injury risk. The Guidelines will now deal with the single occasion drinking i.e. large amount sporadically.

**As more than 450,000 children in Australia are reported to live in a home where adults binge drink, it is time for a change if only for the sake of the children.**

Sporting Clubs have been told by the Prime Minister that they could lose government funding if they don't co-operate and develop codes of conduct. Sport and booze have developed into a club culture which clubs needed to acknowledge and change.

Change requires time and various forms of education which start in the home, are carried into schools, TV advertisements and programs. Plus a responsible code to which the alcohol marketers must adhere not self-regulated but regulated by an independent body.

**Trinity Union, Queensland.** Members had an outing to the Port of Brisbane which is built on reclaimed mud islands and sand etc dredged from the river. Travelling in the Salvation Army Bus with a guide joining at the main centre, they travelled from Hamilton to the mouth and the main shipping channel as far as Caloundra. Lunch was enjoyed at a Restaurant and plans made for the future. Some members are preparing for FAS Day which Trinity will hold in October and Thanksgiving Day will be held at the beach in November as this is an ideal public place to hand out literature etc.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.** A Kids' Party was held and all DFK Kids were invited to headquarters at Cowandilla. The kids enjoyed games and, of course, food, glorious food and balloons and all those things that kids expect to have at a Party. Thanks to Mrs Wendy Sudron for all arrangements.

**VICTORIA** A women's Service Club in Colac, Victoria has been celebrating the Centenary of Women's Suffrage culminating in a grand Dinner. The women have picked this anniversary up as a community project and, after reading, some of our history they recognized the role played by WCTU members in gaining the vote and decided that prior to each event this statement would be read -

*"Out of respect for the women of the Victorian Woman's Christian Temperance Union who worked untiringly alongside other women's organizations to gain the vote for women, there will be no alcohol at this event."*



**The Biggest Morning Tea** is celebrated annually in Victorian Headquarters as a time of fellowship and a way of raising a donation for cancer research. This year special efforts were made and every one working or living in the office building was invited. Unfortunately only 4 responded but a happy time was had by all and \$150 donated.

**The Drug Ed Team** from Melbourne has been very busy meeting with commitments far and wide throughout Victoria. Parents are showing more interest in the Parent Nights and about 30 persons attended one conducted last month. We congratulate Anne Bergen and Jan Shattock for devoting their time and talents in this area of our work.

**Mr Graeme Rule** who many would know as the Executive Officer of COADE (formerly the Victorian Temperance Alliance) recently retired and we extend good wishes for his future.

***We raise our glasses to Graeme and other t e m p e r a n c e advocates retiring after years of active work***



**Grey Nomad Celebration Punch**

- 4 cups white grape juice
- 1 cup pink grapefruit juice
- 1 tabsp lime juice
- 750 ml soda

Combine Juices. Refrigerate. Just before serving add soda water and fruit slices to garnish. Serves 12.

**News from Joy Butler** who was our Director of Education until, with her husband, in recent times moved to live and work in Kenya.

"Our living conditions are excellent - we live 1/2 drive from Nairobi in a huge double-storey house with enough room for everyone. The campus is a huge garden/park and the bird life is prolific as well as squirrels and gazelle nearby. A guard stands/sits outside our house and clicks his heels and salutes whenever we venture outside. Night sounds include crying cows, dogs barking, donkeys braying and chirping insects, roosters crowing, then silence. The people are friendly, very polite and gentle. Nairobi is a clean city - not a plastic bag in sight, no smoking allowed and crime is down. Plenty of goods in the shops and food scrumptious and healthful"

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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 .....

**Congratulations.** Mrs Rae Howard of Huonville, Tasmania was recently the surprised recipient of a State Life Membership. Mrs Howard has held many State Union positions and has always been a loyal and committed member. Recently Rae has been in charge of the White Ribbon Circle and kept in contact with these members.

**Greetings** to Mrs Mae Kent, of Bendigo, Victoria, the previous Editor of this journal, who with her husband Bill have left their family home and moved into assisted care.

**Give God the glory, God and no other  
Give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;  
Give God the glory, God in man my brother:  
Glory to God on high**

( Frederick Pratt Green)



Mrs Wendy Sudron helping with the Party Lunch on Kids Day at South Australian Headquarters. A great day was enjoyed by all!