



all that
GLITTERS
is not
GOLD

Gambling losses highest yet

Almost \$23 billion was lost last year with a 30% growth in sports betting losses. These figures from the Australian Gambling Statistics show that Australians lost \$1241 per head in 2014-15 an increase of 4.9 per cent.

The annual compilation of all state and territory data shows that total expenditure or gamblers' losses hit \$22.7 billion in 2014-15 which is an increase of 7.7 per cent. Also with the explosion in Sports Betting losses in 12 months and predictions that this will continue, it is still small compared with losses in Pokies \$11.6 billion, Racing \$2.8 billion and Lotto \$1.7 billion.

The Victorian government has announced a ban on betting ads near schools and on public transport while Canberra is moving to crack down on offshore bookies as well as strengthen consumer protection for local online punters.

There are also calls from Senator Nick Xenophon, the Greens and Tasmanian Independent Andrew Wilkie for poker machine reforms.

Meanwhile a Victorian woman, a recovering pokies addict, through law firm Maurice Blackburn, (acting pro bono) will formally wrote to Crown and Aristocrat over the popular Dolphin Treasure pokies game. The companies will have two weeks to respond to the claims and try to work out a resolution before the proceedings begin in the Federal Court. Long time pokies campaigner, Tim Costello, acknowledged that the legal action would be an incredibly tough fight.

"This is the people versus Packer and its about time the people had a real win " said Mr Costello, "It has now become David versus two Goliaths. We cannot let Pokies win the day this time"

If the machines prove to be misleading and deceptive, there will be major ramifications for the multibillion dollar industry as well as State Governments that receive billions in tax revenue from pokies.

(as reported in The Age 9 and 23 August 2016)





From Margaret Ostenstad,
WCTU World President
in "White Ribbon Bulletin"



"Women need EDUCATION, EMPOWERMENT and NURTURING. If a woman tells you her story of ABUSE and cries, she is still in pain. Remember to help her give her pain to God. Women understand women. For example, it is not unusual for a woman to feel helpless when her spouse dies. She doesn't know how to do the banking, etc. What about members forming small groups in their country to help widows? These widows would then help other widows. Or a young pregnant woman who has no-one to be with her during the delivery. Isn't this something we could do as part of our FASD awareness work? Remember also: You are not the only voice in your child's ear, so make sure you are the best voice in your child's ear. Make sure you are an informed voice in your child's ear. Children - love them, nurture them, teach them well and believe in them. They are our future. Thanks to the over 20 young people who attended World Convention! TODAY IS THE TOMORROW YOU DREAMT ABOUT YESTERDAY. May we choose wisely, love deeply and laugh of pure joy as we help others to do the same."

World Convention

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

by Kiti Freier Randall, PhD

A drug endangered child is any child who lives in a home where any drug is abused, manufactured or sold. Such children are often subject to physical, emotional, and psychological trauma, making them at risk for long term negative life outcomes.

Prenatal Risks mainly stem from the pregnant mother's use of alcohol (FASD) although tobacco, prescription drugs, amphetamines and cocaine may also cause damage. Their use by an increasing number of women of child-bearing age is a matter of great concern.

The **Postnatal Environment**, often combined with prenatal drug taking, puts children of drug addicted parents at great risk of neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and exposure to toxic materials, and places them at increased risk for neurodevelopmental and psycho-social difficulties. Emotional or mental abuse is often considered the most damaging where children do not receive nurturing because of the chaotic and hazardous home environment. The loss of family security and frequent changes in care-givers when children are moved from home can result in feelings of loss and grief.

The daily chaos, lack of safety, poor communication, violence and disorganization will impact the child's cognition, attention, learning, memory, language, physical development, motor skills and ability to self-regulate, and underlie behavioural problems like attention deficits, oppositional behaviour, tantrums, social isolation, anxiety, depression, anger, aggression, mistrust and other maladaptive behaviours such as stealing and lying.

Children of drug users are at great risk of also becoming drug users. Those who have been victims of abuse will usually become perpetrators of violence.

Early intervention is important as it is now understood that neuronal regeneration is possible given the right environment. Given the right care, endangered children can tilt their 'balance' from risk to resiliency and change their futures.



Contributed by Anne Bergen, see also page 3 FASD, and future issues for more World Convention updates.

Outreach Project - new members

At the SDA Women's Ministries Conference held in Melbourne, Connie Hain, 2nd Vice President of WCTU Australia, presented a power-point presentation on the history and current work of WCTU. Inviting the attendees to become members of WCTU and to also sign the "Cheap and Nasty" petition card so that this could be sent to the government in protest of the wine tax.



Conference members were also given an attractive folder (L) containing samples of WCTU literature in their Conference Bags.

Several signed up for membership on the spot and others considering.



FASD DASHED HOPES AND DAMAGED LIVES:

Dr Allan Handysides, M.B., Ch.B., FRCPC, FRCSC, FACOG

Never in our history have we faced a more challenging task or a more desperate need. The harmful use of alcohol causes an estimated 2.5 million deaths every year, of which a significant proportion occur in the young. Alcohol use is one of the top four most common modifiable and preventable risk factors of the major non-communicable diseases.

Recent work shows that the teratogenic effects of alcohol, can occur sometimes prior to conception, such as in early gamete formation (sperm and ovum).

The mind-boggling concept – at least for men – is that *alcohol use by men in the pre-conceptual period can result in changes in gene expression in their sperm* and paternal alcohol consumption prior to conception has been associated with reduced birth weight and cognitive impairments resulting in dashed hopes and damaged lives.

We agree with those emphasizing the avoidance of alcohol prior to conception by both potential fathers and mothers but because of the complexity of both the effects of alcohol and of the social, emotional, cultural, and economic factors, education alone will not be sufficient to remedy this situation.

From World Convention - Contributed by Anne Bergen

Did you know that-

- Punters will be able to top up their online betting accounts at convenience stores, service stations and some newsagents
- All illicit drugs will be considered as dangerous as each other under new anti-drugs laws in Queensland - simplifying the scheduled illicit substances
- The number of smokers since the plain packaging came in has fallen from 19.4% to 17.2% (likely to be understated and will grow over time)
- Queensland research into "lock out laws" has found that revellers are already drunk when they arrive and don't get significantly drunker overall, calling into question these controversial laws.

53 people (including school children) have been charged under Sexting Laws in Victoria "Young people who text their naked image or sexual references do not consider that information is outside their control for years afterwards"

Thanks to Lucille Brighton our loyal Queensland Correspondent for all of the above material



Two Aussies relaxing in Canada - Helen Palmer of Newcastle and Christine White of Perth .

Are they checking a google map to find the way home?



Young people at the World Convention - Youth Director Dr Elisa Masuku



From National President Anne Bergen

A lot has happened since I wrote my last letter in June so I will update you on our 3 outreach programs: Leaflets and posters designed especially for indigenous women, and new band-aid packs with the message, "Babies and grog don't mix. Band-aids won't fix" have been sent to a number of aboriginal communities. The Aboriginal Health Centre in Alice Springs asked for 1000 band-aid packs and leaflets. Although we have not actively promoted the little jotter pads with the message, "Babies and booze don't mix. No alcohol is the best fix" for young women in the general community we have had a number of orders for these. They will be the focus for FASD Day in 2017. Connie Hain, our 2nd vice President, attended the Seventh Day Adventist Women's Conference in Melbourne and we welcome the women who joined WCTU, and have sent material to quite a number who asked for information leaflets and FASD resources to share with people in their communities.

The World WCTU Convention in Ottawa was a very worthwhile event with excellent speakers on topics Like FASD, Alcohol and Health, Family Violence, Poverty-Feeding the children of the future, Leadership, and Alcohol and Youth. Summaries some of their talks will be in the WRS progressively. (see page 2) Australians were involved in helping the convention to run efficiently and have been elected to WWCTU positions.

While at the World Convention we received news of the passing of **Hilda Hughes**, a former World WCTU Treasurer and valued member of NSW. I was able to include a tribute to Hilda in the Memorial Service. In **Victoria**, Dawn Stark, our Drug Education worker, has presented programs to more than 2000 students and received excellent responses from the schools.

This is the last WRS for 2016 so I thank you for your support for WCTU during this year and look forward to your involvement in 2017.

Anne Bergen



Newly elected World Officers L to R - Back row -VICE Presidents - Young Joo Kim (Kor), Joy Butler (Aust), Irji Eskelinen (Fin), Dora de Barrientos (Guat), Front Row - Treas -Lois Anderson (US), Pres -Margaret Ostenstad (Nor) Sec -Anne Bergen (Aust) and Rec Sec -Florence Einwechter (Can)

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Birthday Cards a Hit.

The Tas. North East WCTU sends birthday cards to all the children and young people who are Little White Ribboners and Drug Free Kids. The cards are made by Jenny McGuire and each child receives a card on their birthday. There have been a few times when the cards did not quite arrive on time to a couple of the children. It was wonderful to hear that the children were asking when their birthday card would arrive.

There has been an increase in the number of children who are registered as Little White Ribboners and Drug Free Kids with the North East Woman's Christian Temperance Union. God has blessed this ministry and we pray that each card will remind parents and children of their pledge to choose not to drink alcohol, smoke, use or experiment with any other drug not prescribed by their doctor.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF VICTORIA together with the Young NCW group, held an event in the Queens Hall Parliament House for students' awards and \$250 Book Vouchers for their three minute presentations on the theme of the day - **'My vote, My Voice- the Right to Stand, the Right to Vote'**. WCTU Drug-Free Lifestyles donated one of the Book Vouchers as the Marie Kirk Award named after the first Secretary of WCTU Victoria.

Photo showing students from Melbourne Girls' Grammar School, who spoke passionately about women of the past but with concern as to who may be prominent in the future, receiving the team award named in honour of the late Jean Cheshire. They also highlighted the different portrayal by the media of men and women. Sheila Byard, then President of the NCW Vic, at the rostrum on the right.



World WCTU elections - Congratulations to Anne Bergen (Organisation Secretary), Joy Butler (2nd Vice-President). And also to Margaret Ostenstad of Norway (re-elected as President) and to Glenda Amos (Children's Director), Rhona Theodore as (Department Director for Home Protection).



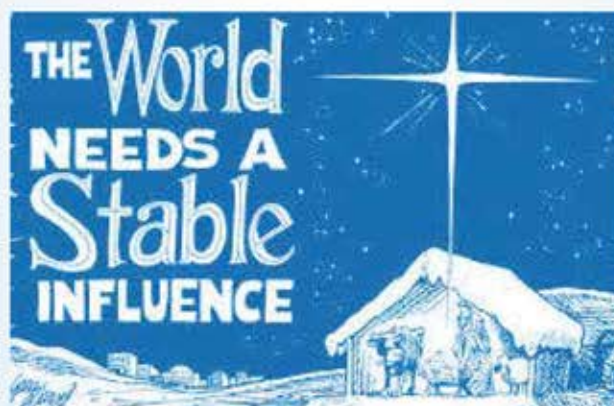
CHRISTMAS CAKE

Last minute, easy cake -

Take 1 kg Mixed Fruit. Soak overnight in 2 cups Peach Tea (or weak black tea). Line 22cm round tin with *double* layer of baking paper.

Next morning add 1 beaten egg to fruit mix and 2 cups self raising flour. Put in tin and bake 180 degrees for 2 hours.

Decorate if desired. Keeps well.



May your Christmas Season be filled with love and joy as you celebrate Jesus' birth

Nutritious food - last year's focus
Exercise- got plenty of that for the morning
Water - Helen gave a talk on this one
Sunshine - lovely day spent in the sunshine
Temperance - abstain from what will harm, moderation in good
Air - plenty of fresh air for the day
Rest- importance of a good sleep each night
Trust in God - being at peace knowing that God is in control



Newcastle DFK had a fun day - learning and playing together - thanks to their dedicated leaders - and developing the theme "NEW START"

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HILDA HUGHES - the much loved and respected former National Treasurer and World Treasurer passed away late August after a long period in a care facility. She was a keen temperance advocate and loyal WCTU member who encouraged the idea that money was to be used in outreach work and not squandered or kept unused to stock pile. Always gracious and, in spite of increasing frailty, she enjoyed her computer as a way of keeping in contact even when difficult to see the screen.

Margaret Martin of WA who was National President during Hilda's term as Treasurer writes



"Hilda Hughes was a very intelligent Treasurer for National WCTU over a long period and was a Certified Practising Accountant who taught bookkeeping and accountancy for many years. She was a very active Christian and worshipped for many years at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Parramatta, where her Memorial Service was held.

She passed away just a few days short of her 94th birthday and although her physical body was weak, her mind was very sharp. Each month she sent out a report of all the various happenings at her retirement home in Castle Hill and news of her many relatives and friends".

"Well done, good and faithful servant."