

WCTU New Zealand

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WHITE RIBBON DIGEST

*"Promoting a Lifestyle Free of Alcohol
and other Drugs"*

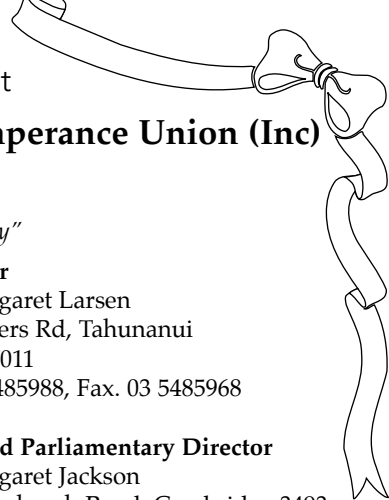


Aurora Borealis, Norway

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Cutting Hours Has Cut Crime
Disillusioned ~ You Bet
United Stand by Medics

Plus more
WHITE RIBBON DIGEST

New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union (Inc)
Organised 1885



**New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union (Inc)
Organised 1885**

"For God Home and Humanity"

President / Acting Editor

Mrs Molly Aitchison
84 Glen Street, Timaru 7910
Tel. 03 6884642, Fax. 03 6884694
Email: glenco@orcon.net.nz

Treasurer

Mrs Margaret Larsen
109 Parkers Rd, Tahunanui
Nelson 7011
Tel. 03 5485988, Fax. 03 5485968

Vice Presidents

Mrs Ruth Gray
3 Piko Street, Nelson 7010
Tel. 03 5483809

Legal and Parliamentary Director

Mrs Margaret Jackson
102 Marychurch Road, Cambridge 3493
Tel. 07 8274131
Fax. 07 8274136
Email: dave.marg@kinect.co.nz

Mrs Ruth Hillsdon

8 Firth Street, Palmerston North 4412
Tel. 06 3559246, Fax. 06 3559241
Email: hillies@xtra.co.nz

**WRD Distributor: changes of address,
extra copies of WRD**

Mrs V. Walker,
264B Taupo Quay, Wanganui 4501
Tel. 06 3455878, Fax. 06 3455903

Secretary

Mrs Janet Palmer
201 TiroTiro Rd, Levin 5510
Tel. 06 3684238, Fax. 06 3684239
Email: palmers@paradise.net.nz

Choice Words

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God."
(John 1v1)

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

2009 has been a very busy year with a great deal of time spent preparing submissions on the Sale and Supply of Liquor Enforcement Bill from our organisation. Individual WCTU members and members of the public were also assisted in preparing their submissions. It is over 20 years since such a comprehensive view as been carried out and the tour of Professor Doug Sellman throughout the country has raised the awareness to a high level.



Over the last 20 years our liquor laws have become very liberal and weak and it will take courageous Members of Parliament to make a stand against the strong lobby from the liquor trade. Their spokespersons have changed their tactics and are trying to appear as 'angels of light'.

During the past 20 years our whole attitude and culture to alcohol has had a dramatic change and binge-drinking is seen in all age groups. The drinking age was lowered from 21 years down to 20 and then down to 18 years. The most visual and damaging was this last step and youth drunkenness and out of control behaviour is seen and reported on in every area of the country. In the USA the authorities had the same problems when they lowered the drinking age but had the courage to raise it again when it just didn't work. Have our MP's the same courage?

As some of you will already know I am not standing for re-election as President. This is my last page to you as President but I will (DV) continue to be the Editor of the White Ribbon Digest.

As I look back on the last six years I have very fond memories of this time. The National Executive have had to make some very difficult decisions and there are still more to talk through at the next Convention. It has been a challenging but rewarding time. The most important question we keep uppermost in our minds is "what is best for the organisation" and that we seek the Lord's guidance on all matters. We have all worked well as a team and will continue to do so if we have your support and prayer backing. Thank you for the letters, articles and prayers Ephesians 6 v 19 -19 tells us to put on the whole armour of God so that we can stand against the devil's schemes.

In the next issue I will be able to introduce you to our new President and new Secretary.

Just as I have become used to writing 2009 it is now 2010!

Yesterday is a cancelled cheque
Tomorrow is a promissory note
Today is cash in hand
Use it wisely

CUTTING HOURS HAS CUT CRIME A TEST CASE

Before October 2007, four of Timaru's Central City 12 bars were licensed until 5am and one had a 24 hour license. When these liberalised liquor laws were first introduced the objectors to them were scoffed at by the hospitality trade as kill-joys but time has proved them to be right After some years of increasing violent assaults, two murders, drunkenness and a wide variety of vandalism the public was sickened and said that enough was enough. South Canterbury Police, along with community leaders decided it was time to take over the control of the city streets. Again the licensing hours were introduced which brought the closing time forward from 5am to 3am. As a result there have been the following improvements.

- * There has been a noticeable reduction in the number of violent crimes in the inner city in the year following, from 402 down to 369 incidents, a drop of 8%.
- * The biggest reduction in recorded violent crime in the inner city during the early hours of weekends. This was halved from 47 down to 23.
- * The number of drunks arrested for their and the public's safety was down by 29%.

The hospitality trade when opposing the proposed restrictions of licensing hours had as one of their excuses that there would be mayhem on the streets if all closed their bars at the same time with patrons wanting taxis at the same time. According to a taxi manager, the 3am closing has been positive and that there was not the amount of drunkenness and bad behaviour around as there was before.

Other local City and District Councils and Police are looking at this example set and we should see more following to increase the safety of their areas. The WCTU believe that there could be a greater improvement for the safety of the public if the licensed premises all closed at 1am.

One does not have to be a rocket scientist to work out that the more alcohol is available and the longer the purchase hours then the more alcohol-related problems will exist. Even when the amount is halved, it is far short of an acceptable target.

Well done Timaru District Council, Police and Community leaders, you have made a good start to rectify the problems and we commend you for that.

BAN THE BOOZE ADVERTISEMENTS



The huge amounts spent on alcohol advertisements daily aimed at conning an already gullible public is a national disgrace and must be laid at the feet of previous Members of Parliament who have allowed this to happen and the liquor trade who do the advertising. It is constantly stated that we are a drink soaked society with a culture that reflects this in loutish and disruptive behaviour that permeates daily life as if this is the norm. This is shown up in the universities dark life side, in gangs, the uneducated unemployable, and in the younger set of the semi-professionals in fact in all segments of society. Some New Zealanders who travel overseas say that they are embarrassed to admit that they are NZ'ers because of the conduct of so many young people on their first big overseas experience. (OE.)

Why should the liquor trade be allowed to advertise a product that is NZ number 1 drug problem? It does it now cause we the public allow it. We vote for the MP's who in turn vote to allow liberal alcohol laws. Here in NZ we have a liquor trade which still upholds the myth on the great benefit of wine for the heart. To gain any help there

would have to be large amounts drunk and by doing so the alcohol will have caused severe liver and other organ damage. The substance resveratrol which is found in the skins and seeds of red grapes can be obtained from eating grapes and drinking unfermented grape juice which has not the alcohol to negate its use. There are also tablets containing resveratrol that has a controlled measured amount. France a country that has for as many years as one can remember has been held up as a culture to be copied when it came to their drinking of red wine. Of recent years their Government had to face up to overwhelming medical evidence that the people were dying younger and developing liver and other organ alcohol related diseases at an unacceptable rate and had the medical records to prove. As a result there is a comprehensive ban of alcohol advertising which includes sports sponsorship.



Medical authorities here who try to speak out and inform the public that drinkers are showing up in increasing numbers at clinics, have their voices lost and the warnings swamped by the volume of liquor advertisements through the media now including computer's on-line. Any Government health warning ads are few and far between and can not compete with rich brewers. Another subtle line is all the brewers logos on sports clothing and sports bags.

The unregulated liquor advertising farce has been caused by all Governments allowing a voluntary code of conduct which frequently breaks its own code. Would we allow any other company i.e. tobacco companies, the same privilege

Our youth have a right to grow up in an environment free from blatant brain washing of the liquor industry's advertising as they

endeavour to normalise alcohol by calling it a food which it is not.

Since alcohol sales have spread into dairies, convenience stores and supermarkets it has come into many homes now as a necessity and at the expense of, in many cases, the place of healthy food. Many alcohol problems now can be hidden at the bottom of a trolley under the bread.

With the rapid spread of outlets in these stores with the discounted 'specials' now a few years down the track it is no wonder that we have a binge-drinking culture which will need a miracle to repair the damage or has it reached the point of no return? The only ones who are in a win win position are the manufacturers of the booze that has blighted our land .We must not forget the M.P's who in the past have allowed it by their vote. Is there no justice no accountability? What happens to these people ? They get knighted!

LETTER TO THE CHRISTCHURCH PRESS 1 SEPTEMBER 2009

SELLING TROUBLE

Liz Read, of Lion Nathan, is right to point out that the alcohol industry is not the only factor behind NZ's heavy drinking culture (Aug 29)

But research indicates that excessive commercialisation is a major factor behind the considerable alcohol-related harm that exists.

Is it socially responsible of the alcohol industry to continue to invest around \$200,000 a day into marketing half-truths and deceptions about alcohol and then remain silent about potential harms of heavy alcohol use?

Is it not hypocritical for the alcohol industry publicly to blame New Zealand's 700,000 heavy drinkers for not being responsible enough and then quietly be very pleased about the enormous profit that is strategically derived from those same individuals?

Is it not disingenuous of the liquor industry to keep saying they are working with the Government to find solutions to the alcohol crisis when behind the scenes they lobby individual MP's hard against effective, science-based solutions for reducing NZ's harmful drinking culture?

Professor Doug Sellman

University of Otago, Christchurch

Central Christchurch



Bouquet No. 1

MAKING A COURAGEOUS STAND

A long standing committee member Rene de Ruiter has resigned from the Marlborough Multisports Club because the organisation will not cut ties with alcohol sponsorship. A founding committee member of 20 years Rene de Ruiter was convinced that the negative health effects of alcohol went against the club's health and fitness message.

Mr de Ruiter said that alcohol sponsorship was unnecessary as there were other options such as increasing fees and using sponsors not linked to alcohol.

Bouquet No. 2

HIGH COST OF DRINKING IN PREGNANCY

Second bouquet goes to the Parnell Rotary Club which has started a pilot programme to introduce an education project to warn young teenagers and their families of the dangers of drinking alcohol while pregnant. Birth defects caused by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder cost the New Zealand tax payer \$1 billion annually.

Brickbat No. 1

In 2004 gaming machine rules were tightened to reduce the opportunity for fraud and theft. Unfortunately this has not stopped the crimes as criminals get more crafty. When such huge amounts of money are involved the Internal Affairs Department needs to make the penalties fit the crime and licensees lose their licenses and have property confiscated to pay for the huge fines that should be imposed. Shock tactics are needed to stop this abuse.

Brickbat No. 2

This goes to the person who nominated Douglas Meyer for a knighthood. Now Sir Douglas Meyer, beer baron, one of New Zealand's richest men received this honour at the New Year. He said, "My grandfather was knighted as was my father

ALCOHOL ACTION NZ

A new national group, Alcohol Action NZ was launched in September 2009. This organisation is seeking changes to our liberal weak liquor laws. Professor Doug Sellman, a psychiatrist and who is the director of the University of Otago, (Christchurch) national addiction centre is spokesman for the group. He took a year off his work to tour NZ conducting 37 meetings and endless media interviews. His message was '10 things the liquor industry won't tell you about alcohol'

His groups advocate a "five – plus" solution to alcohol related issues in NZ.

*Raise alcohol prices

*Raise the purchase age

*Reduce alcohol accessibility

*Reduce marketing and advertising

*Increase drink-driving counter-measures

Plus Increase treatment opportunities for heavy drinkers.

A national alcohol crisis is under-recognised because we have become accustomed to the daily presence of alcohol related problems and constant 'over the top' liquor advertising.

Some of the facts that Doug Sellman has been presenting at his meetings are

*25% of New Zealand drinkers are heavy drinkers.

* A third of all police apprehensions involve alcohol

*60 different medical conditions caused by heavy drinking

*Up to 75% of adult presentations to Emergency Departments on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights are alcohol related.

*Over 300 alcohol-related offences every day

* Over 500 serious and fatal injury traffic crashes each year

*At least 600 children born each year with FASD

*Over 1000 alcohol deaths each year

*More that 17,000years of life per year lost through alcohol.

As a result of Professor Sellman's speaking campaign over 3,000 submissions were presented to the Law Commission released paper 'Alcohol in Our Lives'. The Law Commission will be reporting back in mid 2010 to Parliament on the Sale and Liquor Enforcement Bill for a vote by the Members of Parliament. This is the largest number of submissions ever received .

A veteran politician was asked what he had learnt in the rough and tumble of political arena. "Well," he said, " I found it wasn't so much whether you won or lost, but how you placed the blame."

DISILLUSIONED ~ YOU BET!!!

In September 1988 Mrs Jeanne Wood QSO, then Editor of the NZ White Ribbon Digest and Mrs Molly Aitchison, then National Corresponding Secretary, went to Brisbane and attended a four day World Congress of the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency.

While there we had the pleasure of meeting Miss Christine Lubinski, She was the Washington representative for the US National Council on Alcoholism and on behalf of over 100 other groups and associations. Miss Lubinski was responsible for her outstanding achievements to make it mandatory that safety warning labels should go on all alcoholic liquor. Included in the group were the American Medical Association and the Council on Alcohol Policy.

Early in 1989 their submissions had been successful and all liquor bottles now have to carry these labels.

What about New Zealand- a country reeling drunkenly under our present liberal liquor laws? Year after year the NZ Women's Christian Temperance Union has been requesting our Members of Parliament to allow such labelling of all containers of beverage alcohol. One answer received in February 1989 from the Department of Health stated, " it has no plans to follow the United States in making it law for all liquor bottles to carry warnings of danger to pregnancy, driving and health."

Food Standards Australian and New Zealand (FSANZ) asked for submissions requesting pregnancy labelling in February 2006 and NZWCTU sent theirs to Canberra, Australia as required. For the next year notices were received that these would soon be looked at but nothing happened. Now silence. The liquor lobby is too vocal and strong and our MP's too timid.

If it can do it for tobacco surely it can be done for alcohol.

Another answer to our requests to the NZ Health Department was that labelling doesn't work, that no-one reads labels. Now that is not true!. Most people I know spend much longer in the supermarkets shopping for food as they read the labels regarding ingredients ie sugar, fat, salt contents, and hopefully for an honest place of origin.

As one of our writers has said the politicians have a noose around their necks as they are in the process of reforming our liquor laws.

While we wait for warning labelling countless helpless foetus are being maimed before birth through brain damage, thousands of innocent victims of drinking drivers who had no indication that they were to become corpses or paraplegics within a split second all because our MP's fiddle and fiddle as the years roll on.

In 22 years what progress have we made on this issue...None

Disillusioned -You Bet.....

NEWS IN BRIEF

- * Alcohol is the most commonly used recreational drug in New Zealand with 85 per cent of adults (aged 16 -64) having had an alcoholic drink in the past year.
- * All containers of alcoholic beverages exported to the USA must have safety, health warning labels, so why are they not mandatory here ?
- * Economists put the total annual social cost of alcohol up to \$16 billion!
- * Wellington's Chief Medical Officer ranks alcohol alongside class B drugs, morphine and ritalin and says more than 100 disorders are associated with excessive drinking.
- * It is estimated that damage alcohol causes outscores that of methamphetamine by 100 to one. *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is now generational. Young girls who were born brain damaged, due to their mothers' drinking, have become drinkers themselves and have borne children with the same problem.

NEW LIQUOR BAN SIGNS

The new liquor ban signs will be very hard to miss .The old signs fixed to a pole, if too low were vandalised and if too high were not so obvious.

The Timaru District Council has come up with an excellent solution. A thick white line is stencilled across the width of the footpath with the message Liquor Ban Area with the logo of a circle with a bottle in it with a diagonal cross.

In the beginning just the central business had the liquor ban notice but so successful has it been to police and business's that it has been extended further out.

Replacing the older notices on the posts was expensive but now just a brushful of white paint repairs any damage. This makes for a happy Council. Other towns and planning to follow suit.

Margaret Thatcher once said,
"you may have to fight a battle more than once to win it."

Our Blenheim member, Miss Elaine Hadfield would agree but has won a very important decision over a complaint to the Broadcasting Standards Authority. There was an Editorial and an article in the Marlborough Express which I believe should be read by all of our members. Congratulations Elaine for your stand in your area.

The Marlborough Express Tuesday, November 17, 2009

A TRUE WOMAN OF CONVICTION

Some may call her petty. Others may say that she should mind her own business. But nobody can ever say Elaine Hadfield doesn't have values and principles.

Blenheim's moral crusader has strong beliefs and she makes sure that anyone who cares to listen knows about them.

Today Miss Hadfield is celebrating her first successful complaint to the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) after the authority upheld her complaint over an item featuring drunken duck shooters on current affairs show, "Close Up"

Miss Hadfield (and other complainants) took exception to a segment which showed a group of duck shooters drinking alcohol before firing shotguns.

One hunter was shown attempting to have sex with a blown up doll, while alcohol brands were visible throughout the story.

The BSA agreed and Close Up last night featured an apology of sorts.

Miss Hadfield also does a fair bit of letter writing to The Marlborough Express. If this newspaper features photographs (particularly on the front page) of people drinking alcohol then it's a given that there will be a letter from her admonishing us for our actions.

We have been taken to task for using the word "bum" to describe the rear end of a cyclist in last year's Grape Ride.

We don't always agree with Miss Hadfield's comments but it is nice to know that someone is watching out for us and making us accountable for everything we do.

Miss Hadfield doesn't only write and complain about things, she is actively involved in several groups and organisations that aim to make our world a better place.

And it is not only alcohol and irresponsible television that she objects to. Miss Hadfield has a deep concern for the environment and was one of the founding members of the Save the Wairau group.

Miss Hadfield's moral standards may be too narrow for many of us but her commitment to them is unquestionable, and that is a trait that is commendable.

Miss Hadfield says people should make their voices heard if they are not happy about something. She points out that if something is wrong and you don't do anything about it, you are condoning it.

There's nothing wrong with that logic and we could probably all learn a lesson or two from Miss Hadfield.

You don't always have to agree with her but there is no denying she is a woman of conviction. And that's to be admired.

The Marlborough Express 17-11-09

CRUSADER WINS TVNZ COMPLAINT



Blenheim's moral crusader Elaine Hadfield is celebrating her first successful complaint to the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) after the authority upheld her complaint over an item featuring drunk duck shooters on current affairs show Close Up.

Miss Hadfield and four other, including alcohol manufacturer Lion Nathan and Fish and Game New Zealand, wrote to the BSA after a May 4 episode of the TVNZ programme showed a

group of duck shooters in the Wairarapa drinking alcohol before firing shotguns.

One hunter was also shown attempting to have sex with a blow-up doll, while alcohol brands were visible throughout the story.

Miss Hadfield in her complaint said the item contained disgusting behaviour 'such as a hunter diving on a blow-up doll and showing his naked buttocks.'

This set a bad example for children during family viewing time.

She also said the item's inclusion of guns and alcohol was not a good mix.

The BSA ordered TVNZ to show a statement on the authority's ruling that the programme had breached good taste and decency, did not consider the interests of children and contained irresponsible liquor promotion.

TVNZ was ordered to pay \$3500 costs to the Crown and \$1500 to a complainant for legal costs.

Last night, Miss Hadfield said she did not regularly watch Close Up but would be tuning in to see the broadcaster's statement.

The broadcaster had countered that the item did not glamorise or condone the hunters' behaviour, but instead portrayed it "for what it was" (and) revealed the "existence of a problem" The state broadcaster also said the show was targeted at an adult audience.

Miss Hadfield was not buying that and was pleased the BSA had not either. The authority's decision was the first time she had a complaint upheld, despite lodging more complaints than she could count.

She attributes this success in part to the fact that four others also expressed their disgust. "That makes a huge difference" Miss Hadfield encouraged people to make their voices heard if they were not happy. "If something is wrong and you don't do anything, you are condoning it."

The long-time community standards campaigner said she had no other complaints on the go, but was planning to write submissions to the Law Commission on proposed changes to the liquor laws.

Martin Luther King Jun. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

UNITED STAND BY NZ MEDICS

A letter to the Law Commission signed by more than 300 leading New Zealand doctors and nurses was a united effort. In the submissions it stated that at least 700,000 problem drinkers needed help in 'an historic and unprecedented' effort to change the present alcohol laws.

The joint statement accuses the liquor industry of using the same tactics as the tobacco industry to prevent effective regulations and maintain sales despite enormous personal and social damage. Alcohol is a potentially dangerous and addictive recreational substance states the letter. It goes on to say that at least 24 per cent or 700,000 New Zealand drinkers 16 years and over show sustained pattern of problem drinking and could benefit from intervention.

The letter continues that a visit to any emergency department on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night, a stroll downtown in most NZ towns or cities or a visit to the Women's Refuge or addiction clinics would surprise most people.

GUESS WHO I AM.

An elderly woman walked into the foyer of a church where she was greeted by the deacon who asked her, "Where would you like to sit?" "In the front row", she answered "You really don't want to do that". The deacon replied, "The pastor is pretty boring." The woman stood up straight and said, "Do you know who I am?" "No" he replied. "I'm the pastor's mother!", she snapped. "Do you know who I am?", he said. "No" she replied. "Good", he said and ducked out the door.

DEVOTIONAL PAGE



In the Garden of Eden, God, Adam and Eve enjoyed a close fellowship, until the day when Satan deceived, firstly Eve, then Adam followed her into disobeying God's command. This special relationship was broken because a holy God can not look at sin. Sin is disobedience to God – self-will against God's will.

God's chosen people the Jewish race, from whose bloodline the Messiah would come, were given a list of rules (commandments) They were to show the people, God's holy standards but they could not save the people from their sins but they pointed by faith to the Saviour who would come.. Each year the temple High Priest would sacrifice a perfect animal with no physical defects, for the sins of the people. "For without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin."

The triune God's plan was unfolding to reconcile the people back to himself. God the Father would send, God the Son, into the world to become the Sin-bearer for those who would repent.

At a certain time in history, Jesus was born in Bethlehem to a virgin named Mary. For 30 years he lived in obscurity and His ministry was heralded in by John the Baptist who pointed to Him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1 v 29. In 3 short years, Jesus preached of a coming Kingdom of God, a message rejected by the Jews. He healed the sick raised the dead and spoke out on the devious teachings of the Jewish religious leaders who plotted to put Him to death .He was arrested, given an illegal trial, sentenced to death by crucifixion .Jesus was to be the sacrificial Passover Lamb that year. In His dying hours He was deserted by most except a few faithful and died an agonising death on the cross and was buried.

On the third day, the grieving disciples visited the tomb early on the morning of the first day of the week. They found the stone rolled away from the cave's entrance and an angel standing there who spoke to them," He is not here, He has risen." They were frightened and did not understand until Jesus appeared to them on many occasions over the next 40 days, during that time, further teaching them and encouraging them to wait for the in filling of the Holy Spirit . During this time He was seen by over 500 witnesses. At the end of this time Jesus ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God interceding for those who would repent and put their trust in Him.

Today we worship a living Saviour who paid the penalty for our sins. "We are saved by grace through faith in Him. Not of works but the gift of God, least anyone should boast."

Amen

UNION NEWS

WORLD WCTU CONVENTION

The World WCTU Convention is to be held in Stavanger, Norway in May 12 – 17th 2010 Mrs Janet Palmer and Mrs Vivienne Walker will be our delegates representing New Zealand. They will value your prayers for their health and safety for their travels.

NOTABLE DAYS FOR NZWCTU MEMBERS

World No Tobacco Day, May 31, 2010
International FASD Awareness Day, September 9, 2010
Suffrage Day (NZ) September 19, 2010
World WCTU Day of Prayer, September 28, 2010
World No Alcohol Day, October 2, 2010

NZ NATIONAL CONVENTION

This is being held at Pacific Park Christian holiday Camp, 1110 Papamoa Beach Road, Papamoa, Tauranga Tuesday 9am 9th March 2010 to Thursday evening 11 March.

Late enquiries to Mrs Beverley Boardman, ph.(07) 8470763 or email bev.dave@xtra.co.nz

For those members and friends who will not be attending we would appreciate your prayers that we will seek the Lord's guidance and wisdom in the decisions that are to be made as we look to the future work and goals.

TIPS TO HELP STOP SMOKING

For some of your friends who are trying to stop smoking here are some helpful tips.

- * Don't tell them how much you dislike people smoking . This does not help and often makes the smoker resolve to keep going.
- * If you are asked for ideas on how they can beat the habit and most people do, there are some suggestions that have helped others.
- * List why you like smoking and why you want to stop.
- * Set a date as this will help you prepare and focus
- * If there is a smoker in the house ask them (if they don't already do this) to go outside and smoke.
- * May be that person will also determine to stop and you can help each other.
- * As smoking is a habit look for something else to do with your hands.
- * Don't try to cut down, like dieting you end up in a worse state than before, but on an appointed day say I am finished
- * Drink lots and lots of water or fluids and if possible reduce the coffee intake.
- * Get a jar and put in it all the money you have saved in one week that would have gone up in smoke and that is a big incentive.
- * If you are a Christian share with your Christian friends to pray for you (this worked for me) and have someone to be able to ring up when or if you feel desperate.
- * If you do slip up go through the process again and God willing and He is, you will make it.

White Ribbon Digest

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening Church service, when she was startled by an intruder.

She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled "Stop. Acts 2: 38!" (Repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly rang the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer handcuffed the man to take him in he asked the burglar "Why did you just stand there. All the woman did was to yell scripture at you"?

"Scripture", said the burglar, "She said that she had an axe and two 38's!

Knowing Scripture can save your life- in more ways than one.

THE TROUBLE TREE

A work mate and I had had a very difficult day at work in the construction company where we were both employed. Every thing that could go wrong did and we were both pleased to see the end of a very trying day.

My friend asked if he could get a ride home with me as his car was in the repair shop and that he had missed his bus home. I gladly agreed and we left to go home.

We both sat in silence as we both glumly thought through the difficulties that had arisen during the day.

When we got to his house he invited me in to meet his wife and two little boys whom he had often spoken about. As he walked to the front door, he paused briefly by a small potted tree and touched the tips of the branches briefly with the open palms of both hands in a strange gesture.

When he opened the door to greet the family a wonderful transformation came over his face. With a big beaming smile he kissed his wife and hugged and kissed his two wee boys.

As I left he walked with me to the car. As we passed the small potted tree I asked him why he had touched the tree in the manner he did.

"Oh" he said, "that is my trouble tree. I know that I can't help having troubles on the job but one thing's for sure, troubles don't belong to this house with my wife and children. So I just hang them on the tree each night when I come home. Then in the morning I pick them up again. Funny thing is that when I come out to pick them up in the morning, there are not nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

White Ribbon Digest

UNION OFFICERS

WHANGAREI

Pres. Mrs Vi Codling, 3/285 Kamo Road, Kensington, Whangarei 0112

Treas. Mrs Rowanne McRae, 4 Nottingham Road, Whangarei 0110, 09 4361641

AUCKLAND

Pres. Mrs A. Paterson, 10 Keystone Ave, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1041, 09 6206721

Sec. Mr P. Groom, 42 Tranmere Road, Sandringham, Auckland 1041, 09 8464849

Treas. Mrs A. Paterson

HAMILTON / CAMBRIDGE

Pres. Mrs M. Jackson, 102 Marychurch Rd, Cambridge 3493, 07 8274131

Sec. Mrs C. Atkinson, 26 Addison Street, Cambridge 3432, 07 8231019

Treas. M Jackson

TAURANGA

Pres. Mrs F. Ralston, 1/16 Oban Road, Tauranga 3112, 07 5411186

Sec. Mrs Phyllis Irvine, 195 Waihi Rd, Tauranga 3110

Treas. Mrs F. Jennings, 57 Pukemapu Road, Tauranga 3173

GONVILLE

Contact: Mrs V. Walker, 264B Taupo Quay, Wanganui 4501, 06 3455878

MANAWATU

Contacts: Mrs R. Hillsdon, 8 Firth Place, Palmerston North 4412

Mrs J. Palmer, 201 TiroTiro Road, Levin 5510, 06 3684238

MASTERTON

Contact: Mrs G. Lane, 46 Perry Street, Masterton 5810, 06 3786629

WELLINGTON

Contact: Mrs M. Ross, 13 Stafford Street, Wellington 6011, 04 3851294

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"To reduce health and social problems by promoting a lifestyle free of alcohol and other drugs."

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By signing the following pledge you may become a member of this organisation. "I affirm my life-long pledge of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquor as a beverage, and my willingness to pursue all proper means to discourage and prevent its use in society. I pledge myself to work and pray to this end by endeavouring to promote a personal purity of life, free from the menace of narcotic poisons and drugs, claiming always the promised guidance and help of God.

Signed

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Men are eligible for full membership

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