

## Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Victoria, Inc. 123rd State Convention Report



Photo courtesy Geelong Advertiser

### RECIPE FOR TODAY'S TEENAGE DRINKING CULTURE

- Marinate our new "Y" generation of teenagers using a strong base of established drinking culture.
- Mix in the challenges of parenting teens today and our busy lifestyles
- Slowly sift out communication and support between parents
- Pour in the easy accessibility and supply of alcohol to teens
- Combine with insufficient laws to target the secondary supply of alcohol to minors
- Let rise the growing proportion of parents or others hosting parties for young children where alcohol is readily available or supplied
- Knead together with plenty of peer group pressure
- Season with some poor parental examples (optional)
- Cover with some denial or lack of knowledge about the potentially harmful effects of alcohol on children
- Simmer slowly for a few years.

*Helen Torpy*

**123rd Convention of WCTU Victoria** was celebrated with a Luncheon in the Robert White Hall, Scots Church, attended by representatives of various organizations. Catering was in the capable hands of the Women's Catering Committee of Mobile Mission Maintenance. The data projector was put to good use with the Drug Education Program being shown throughout the Lunch period organized by Mrs Anne Bergen. Mrs Ellen Chandler presented some facts about Energy Drinks particularly "Mother" which contains the maximum legally allowable amount of caffeine plus guarana. These drinks are popular with young people but can be dangerous particularly if drunk in quantity or by pregnant women. There is also a trend to mix "Mother" with alcohol and this can be devastating as the energy drink deceives the drinker into not being aware that they may be drunk. In NSW "Mother" has been put "on tap" in 92 hotels making it very easy to combine with alcohol. Also available at a supermarket near you are "shots" of energy drink i.e. powerful mix in a 40ml container. Victoria has moved to prevent energy drinks on tap.

Mrs Helen Torpy of Geelong was introduced as the key speaker, a nurse, mother of four, now young adult children, who decided a few years ago to do her bit to keep kids safe from alcohol and all its side effects. Helen is the perfect example of "the power of one". What one woman can achieve is really amazing.

Go to the [KeepemSafe website](#) for some of the story of Helen's journey to keep kids safe from the brain damaging effects of alcohol and her involvement, among other things, in the campaign to outlaw secondary supply in Victoria. Currently Helen is involved in a University survey of alcohol and young people. Helen was thanked by Mrs Jan Shattock and Mrs Anne Bergen who presented her with a bottle of non-al and a cheque to cover expenses.