The Memorial Plaque

"...The blossoms are blossoming without you..."

(Jennifer Meyers, "Joshua knew only the winter")

TO ALL WHO LOSE THEIR LIFE FROM OUR EFFORTS TO SAVE THEM FROM DRUGS

"You have gone from earth,
Gone even from the meaning of a name;
Yet something's there, yet something forms its lips
And hits and cries against the ports of space,
Beating their sides to make its fury heard.

"But I was bound, and could not go that way,
But I was blind, and could not feel your hand.
If I could find an answer, could only find
Your meaning, or could say why you were here
Who now are gone, what purpose gave you breath
Or seized it back, might I not hear your voice?"

(Kenneth Slessor, "Five Bells")

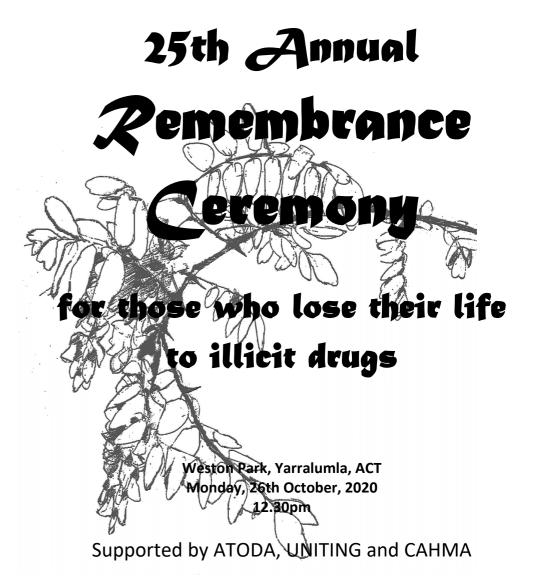
16 December 1996 Erected by Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform

Permission by the publishers, HarperCollins, to print part of Kenneth Slessor's poem is gratefully acknowledged.

We acknowledge that the ceremony today is taking place on Ngunnawal land.

If you wish to be notified of the next ceremony please leave your name and email in the book provided.

Further information concerning Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT) Inc. can be obtained by writing to PO Box 7186, KALEEN ACT 2617, by phoning (02) 62571786 by emailing president@ffdlr.org.au or filling in the Contact Form on the website www.ffdlr.org.au



PLEASE NOTE: A Covid Safety Plan is in use. Please abide by the physical distancing restriction of 1.5 metres

Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT) Inc.

committed to preventing the tragedy that arises from illicit drug policy

Program

Musical Item: Four Seasons in One Day by Crowded House *Alison Oakleigh*

Welcome and Introduction: Bill Bush, President, Families and Friends

for Drug Law Reform

'Reflections': Oscar Wilson and Julian Juhas

Musical Item: These Days – Powderfinger

'Reflections': Jennie Ross-King

Musical Item: Memories - One Voice Children's Choir

Remembrance of those who have lost their life to illicit drugs

Reading of names – Rev Simon Hansford

Placing of flowers at foot of memorial – flowers in the cups may be removed and placed at the rock

Accompanying Musical Item: Under the Milky Way by the Church

Alison Oakleigh

Address: Rev Simon Hansford,

Moderator Uniting Church NSW/ACT Synod

Musical Item: Graceland by Paul Simon

Alison Oakleigh

Following the ceremony refreshments will be available - Tea/Coffee free from the cart. Refreshments at cost.

Please sit in your family groups if you are remaining for a picnic lunch.

A special thank you to ATODA, UNITING and CAHMA for organising assistance.

Please take the colours of the tree away with you in the form of one of the green and white ribbons that are available.

Similar ceremonies are held across Australia and in some European Cities.

Why Remember?

We come together today to remember our loved ones and our best friends. Some names have been read out every year over these 25 years, some are more recent on the list and some for the first time today. It is good that we remember these people who were precious to us but it is disheartening that many lives are still being lost because of our inability or our refusal to seek more humane and just drug policies. May the coming year be the year for real change.

Memories

One Voice Children's Choir
Here's to the one's that we got
Cheers to the wish you were here,
but you're not

'Cause the dreams bring back all the memories

Of everything we've been through Close to the ones here today Close to the ones that we lost on the way

'Cause the dreams bring back all the memories

And the memories bring back, memories bring back you
There's a time that I remember, when I did not know no pain
When I believed in forever, and everything would stay the same
Now my heart feel like December when somebody say your name (ay, ay)

'Cause I can't reach out to call you, but I know I will one day, yeah Everybody hurts sometimes Everybody hurts someday, yeah But everything gon' be alright Go and raise your voice and say, ay Here's to the ones that we got Cheers to the wish...

These Days

Powderfinger

It's coming round again

Slowly creeping hand

Of time and its command

Soon enough it comes

And settles in its place

Its shadow in my face

Puts pressure in my day

This life well it's slipping right through my hands

These days turned out nothing like I

had planned

It's coming round again

The slowly creeping hand

Of time and its command

It settles in its place

Its shadow in my face

Puts pressure in my day

Soon enough it comes

Here it is again

Slowly creeping hand

Time and it's command

Soon enough it comes

Settles in it's place

It's shadow in my face

Undignified and lame

This life well it's slipping right through my hands

These days turned out nothing like I had planned

Control well it's slipping right through my hands

These days turned out nothing...