

## 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 Zoomed from Ngunnawal land.

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 0497 532 801,  
by emailing [president@ffdlr.org.au](mailto:president@ffdlr.org.au) or filling in the Contact Form on the  
website [www.ffdlr.org.au](http://www.ffdlr.org.au)

# 26th Annual Remembrance

## Ceremony

for those who lose their life  
to illicit drugs

By Zoom – register at <http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/26th-annual-remembrance-ceremony-tickets-169923460645>

Monday, 25th October, 2021  
12noon -1pm

Supported by Uniting & ATODA

**Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT) Inc.**  
*committed to preventing the tragedy that arises from illicit drug policy*

# Program

**Welcome and Introduction:** Bill Bush, President, Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform

**'Reflections':** Janine Haskins

**Musical Item:** *Big Yellow Taxi* – Counting Crows  
Brontë performed this at an end of year school assembly in primary school.

**Address:** Peter Cain MLA, Liberal member for Ginninderra, Assistant Shadow Attorney-General & Treasurer


**Remembrance of those who have lost their life to illicit drugs**

**Video of names introduced by** Rev Dr John Squires, Presbytery Minister – Wellbeing, Uniting Church in Australia

**Minute's Silence** during which participants are invited to display name, photo or something special to the person who is remembered.

**Address:** Rev Dr John Squires

**Musical Item:** *Forever Young* by Youth Group



A special thank you to  
Uniting and ATODA, for huge tech help and organisation.

Next year we hope to gather at our beautiful memorial to celebrate no more needless deaths with the passage of legislation that ends the stigmatisation and marginalisation of people who happen to use drugs.

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 26 years, all too many more recent ones appear for the first time today. It is good that we remember those 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.

We are not playing the confronting song, *Don't lean on Me* that meant so much to Brontë & her parents; it is about young people contemplating suicide. Please reflect on the warm humanity amidst its bleak loneliness & desperation. It demands we do things better. May the coming year be the year to bring real change.

## Don't Lean on Me The Amity Affliction

*Songwriters: Birch Joel Fletcher C / Brady Troy Jon-colin / Stringer Ahren Charles / Burt Ryan Richard / Brown Daniel Kenneth  
© Native Tongue Music Publishing*

Let the ocean take me, oh  
You've gotta know, kid, that it ain't easy  
To take on all of your grieving  
Yeah, you've gotta believe me, oh  
Well, don't lean on me 'cause I am falling, please don't fall with me  
I really need you here, yeah, I need you, so don't leave  
And don't count on me 'cause I am drowning, please don't drown with me  
Just hold me in your heart, let the ocean take me  
Let the ocean take me  
And you think I don't read every message that you send?  
You think I turn a blind eye? You think I'm just like them?  
It breaks my heart, all these stories; brings me to tears, all this grief  
And I feel so fucking helpless when I can't be your relief, oh  
Well, don't lean on me 'cause I am falling, please don't fall with me  
I really need you here, yeah, I need you, so don't leave  
And don't count on me 'cause I am drowning, please don't drown with me  
Just hold me in your heart, let the ocean take me  
There is hope in my eyes, there is hope in these words  
And there are far too many reasons for you to stay here on this earth  
Stay with me  
Well, don't lean on me 'cause I am falling, please don't fall with me  
I really need you here, yeah, I need you, so don't leave  
And don't count on me 'cause I am drowning, please don't drown with me  
Just hold me in your heart, let the ocean take me  
Yeah, let the ocean take me  
Yeah, let the ocean take me...

# Big Yellow Taxi

Lyrics by Joni Mitchell

They paved paradise and put up a parking lot  
With a pink hotel, a boutique, and a swinging  
hot spot  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone  
They paved paradise and put up a parking lot  
Oh, bop, bop, bop  
They took all the trees, and put em in a tree  
museum  
And they charged the people a dollar and a  
half to see them  
No, no, no  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone  
They paved paradise, and put up a parking lot  
Oh, bop, bop, bop  
Hey farmer, farmer, put away your DDT  
I don't care about spots on my apples  
Leave me the birds and the bees  
Please  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone  
They paved paradise and put up a parking lot  
Hey now, they paved paradise to put up a  
parking lot  
Oh, bop, bop, bop  
Why not?  
Oh, bop, bop, bop  
Listen, late last night, I heard the screen door  
slam  
And a big yellow taxi took my girl away  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone  
They paved paradise and put up a parking lot  
Hey now, now, don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone  
They paved paradise to put up a parking lot  
Why not?

They paved paradise and put up a  
parking lot  
Hey, hey, hey  
Paved paradise and put up a parking lot  
Oh, bop, bop, bop  
Oh, bop, bop, bop  
I don't wanna give it  
Why you wanna give it  
Why you wanna giving it all away  
Hey, hey, hey  
Now you wanna give it  
I should wanna give it  
'Cause you're givin it all away  
I don't wanna give it  
Why you wanna give it  
Why you wanna giving it all away  
Givin, givin it all  
Givin it all away  
Why do you want me?  
Why do you want me?  
'Cause you're givin it all away  
Hey, paved paradise to put up a parking  
lot  
© Crazy Crow Music

www.crazycrowmusic.com