

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
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website 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
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