

**THE NATIONAL “SEA OF ORANGE”
ATTENTION & AWARENESS FORUM**

On Monday 24 July Ian Fraser, his lovely wife Karen, Kathleen Henry and myself attended the “Sea of Orange” Forum in Highfields (just outside of Toowoomba).

The forum was hosted by Keith Payne VC OAM and Co-ordinated by Tracey Zerk. Speakers included:

Dr Ray Huntley – Chairman AMA Qld Veteran’s Health Committee
Mr Paul Gilmour-Walsh – Qld State Vice President RSL
Mr Keith Payne VC OAM – Veteran of Korea, Malaya & Vietnam
Mr Mervyn Kleidon – Atomic Veterans
Mr Ray Brown – National President ISPA (Injured Service Persons Assn)
Mr John MacGregor – WWII Papua New Guinea Cable
Mr Ian Fraser – National President F-111 Deseal/Reseal Support Group Inc
Mr Graham MacLeod – Foundation Member Occupational Health Society of Australia, Sea of Orange Co-ordinator, WA, Legal Liaison Officer Veterans’ and Pensioners Advocacy
Ms Pauline Rigby – Ethicist, Community Development Worker & Foundation Member, “DUSK” (Depleted Uranium Silent Killer) incorporating Gulf War 1 Veterans
Dr Janis Carter – Veteran Geriatric Medico-legal Family Psychiatry on addressing PTSD
Dr David Mackrell – Deputy Commissioner DVA Qld
Ms Bernadette Carter-Nicoll – Barrister
Mr Mal Wheat – Qld State President VVFA (Vietnam Veterans’ Federation of Australia) and founder of ASIST (suicide intervention)
Mr Brett Bullians – Qld State President VVAA (Vietnam Veterans’ Association of Australia)
Mr Terry Fogarty – Researcher for Advocacy for Veterans
Mr Normie Rowe AM – Vietnam Veteran

Also present were:

Mr Bruce Billson MP, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and his advisors
Mr Mark Sullivan, Secretary of DVA
Mr Alan Griffin MP, Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs
Mr Geoff Patch, Mayor of Crow’s Nest
Mr Paul Dignon, National Co-ordinator “Sea of Orange” Campaign and his wife
Mrs Linda Dignon

The day was a success in raising awareness of the issues that current and former defence personnel are experiencing in receiving justice and fairness in relation to compensation for injury or illness caused in the line of peace or war time duty.

For the Deseal cause the day was a further success as Ian was interviewed and aired on the ABC news and the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs both spoke to us and indicated that

he would like to meet with desealers in the near future. Kathleen and Ian are working to arrange that for as soon as possible.

The “Sea of Orange” Forum would not have been possible without the work of many volunteers and the speakers who donated their time. For Deseal, Ian, Kathleen and myself gave up two days each, one of which was a work day, plus all the preparation time to make this work in our favour.

We Deseal representatives were then invited to attend the Discussion Panel on Tuesday in Brisbane where Kathleen and I were able to contribute to the Legislative knowledge of the group in preparing a submission for Canberra. In another win for Deseal recognition, Bruce Billson specifically requested Kathleen accompany Tracey Zerk and Keith Payne to present the submission to Canberra. Kathleen will advise us of the date for this as soon as she knows.

Further details regarding the “Sea of Orange” can be obtained by emailing orangeprotest@googlegroups.com or by calling Tracey Zerk on (07) 4662 6015.