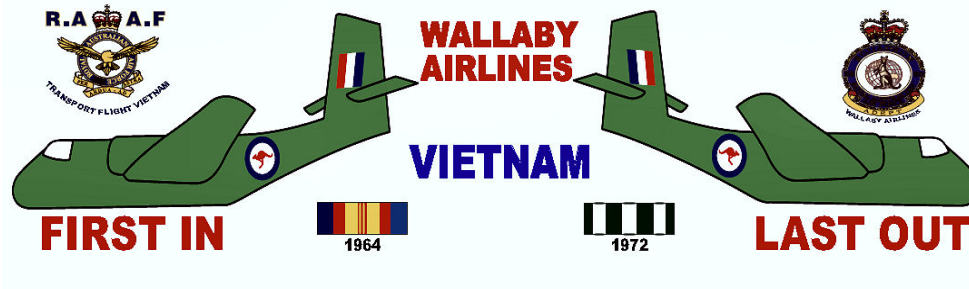


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WALLABY AIRLINES

RTFV-35 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION
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HON. SEC-TREAS.
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15 April 2019

The Premier of Queensland – The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk

Dear Premier,

I am writing to you about future ANZAC Day march's in Brisbane, as it is too late to change what has been put in place for this year and seek your assistance in rectifying what my association and I believe need changing.

I would like to address two issues.

Firstly - older veterans should march prior to the younger veterans/serving Service people.

The history of the ANZAC Day march goes back to World War I when Sir John Monash brought together the returned servicemen and marched in Melbourne. I have been advocating that the older veterans and associations should march first as they did in the first march. I have advised the ANZAC Day Committee the parades are too long and older veterans cannot stand for over an hour waiting to step off. I have already had members of our association advising me that they will not be attending the Brisbane march in future due to this issue. From a traditional point of view, the returned servicemen march first.

With our veterans aging and other health issues, waiting to march can be detrimental to their health and anxiety.

Most older veterans attend after-march functions as it is important for them to meet up with their friends while they are still able to do so. A lot of the older veterans don't attend these functions as they are too weary after having to wait to march. Also, the younger veterans tend to not attend these functions.

Secondly - in recent years weapons of war have been included in the march.

I have written to the ANZAC Day Committee commenting that weapons that kill have nothing to do with ANZAC Day. ANZAC Day is about remembering those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The current Committee think ANZAC Day is, in fact, a military parade.

I am currently the Secretary for RTFV-35 Squadron and am including an email from one of our members who was our first secretary to show the history of our association.



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In 1991 he sent the first letter to the ANZAC Day Committee in Brisbane seeking permission for our association, RTFV-35 Squadron Association, to march. We have marched in Brisbane every year since 1991. He was one of two members who designed our banner, which we still march with today.

Any assistance to rectify these two issues would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

John Sambrooks

Secretary RTFV-35 Squadron

