

# Civil Aviation Historical Society & Airways Museum

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## MEDIA RELEASE

In a 57 year-old mystery that remains to this day, Australian National Airways' flagship, the Douglas DC-4 airliner VH-ANA *Amana*, crashed shortly after takeoff near York, WA, on a flight to Adelaide and Melbourne on 26 June 1950 with the loss of all 29 on board. It remains one of the two worst civil aircraft accidents in Australia's history\*. During the subsequent inquiry it was determined that all damage had been caused during, rather than prior to, the crash. However, new evidence has come to light.

Recently, over 50 years after the event, wreckage has been found quite some distance from the main crash site: wreckage that was not seen by the original investigation team. This 'new' wreckage has an interesting story to tell and, whilst it can't change the outcome of the *Amana* story, it does solve a small piece of the *Amana* mystery and shed some light on her final moments.

On 26 June 2007, the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accident, Mr Grahame Higgs will present these recovered pieces of the *Amana*'s wreckage for permanent safekeeping to the Civil Aviation Historical Society (CAHS) and Airways Museum at Melbourne's historic Essendon Airport, the *Amana*'s final destination in 1950. Mr Higgs will also give a short illustrated lecture.

Accepting the pieces of the *Amana* on behalf of the CAHS will be President Roger Meyer OAM and renowned air safety author Mr Macarthur Job OAM.

**Media representatives are invited to attend the Airways Museum to cover the presentation.**

### Contacts:

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### Media resources:

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\* The crash of TAA's Fokker F.27 VH-TFB at Mackay in 1960 also resulted in 29 fatalities.