

historical snapshot

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ANA Amana – June 1950

Just after 10.00 pm on June 26th, 1950, a farming property in the Avon Valley, became the scene of Australia's worst air disaster. This was the fateful night that the Australian National Airlines plane, ANA Amana crashed enroute from Perth to Adelaide and Melbourne, killing the twenty four passengers and five crew on board. The final flight of the Amana appears to have ended with an explosion. Several people reported that they were raised from their slumber through the sounds of the troubled aeroplane and subsequent crash.

Despite a number of investigations into this tragedy, no clear evidence could be found to determine exactly what went wrong that night. Theories abounded about water in the fuel. Although the investigators found that there was a serious dereliction of duty by ground engineers at the three airports the Amana had visited that day, no ground staff were found responsible for the accident.

Mass passenger aircraft travel was still in its infancy at the time of the Amana tragedy. Many pilots and ground crew were former military men, who displayed the same "gung-ho" attitudes to commercial flying as they had during the war. The Amana accident became a "watershed" for Australian aviation. The stringent safety procedures which mark our skies amongst the safest in the world grew from investigations into this disaster.

Source:

Beverley Tourism Management,

Feasibility and Sustainability Plan.

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Cover shot: © Photographer: Collette Harold. A volunteer comforts a frightened child at an accident scene.