

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198304918**

Piper PA32R

18 September 1983

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198304918 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Kurwina Plantation (Bouganville Island) PNG

Date: 18 September 1983 **Time:** 1300

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	3
Total	0	0	0	4

Aircraft Details: Piper PA32R

Registration: VH-RHT

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Pleasure

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Kurwina Plantation PNG

Departure Time: N/A

Destination: Kieta PNG

Approved for Release: 22nd April 1985

Circumstances:

The pilot was conducting a pleasure flight from Australia to the Solomon Islands via various aerodromes in Papua New Guinea. He reported that shortly after take-off the engine lost power and he was forced to ditch the aircraft, which subsequently sank in 100 metres of water. Investigation of this accident is the responsibility of the PNG authorities. The investigation indicated that the take-off attempt had been made with the aircraft loaded in excess of the maximum recommended for the length of strip available.