

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198102582**

**Piper PA32RT-300T**

**22 October 1981**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198102582 **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** 10 km North of Healesville VIC  
**Date:** 22 October 1981 **Time:** 1659  
**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	3	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Piper PA32RT-300T  
**Registration:** VH-CGL  
**Serial Number:**  
**Operation Type:** Travel as part of Aerial Safari  
**Damage Level:** Destroyed  
**Departure Point:** Canberra ACT  
**Departure Time:** 1510  
**Destination:** Moorabbin VIC

**Approved for Release:** 27th April 1984

#### **Circumstances:**

The pilot and passengers were overseas visitors taking part in an aerial safari. The flight apparently proceeded normally until a series of garbled radio transmissions were recorded from the aircraft, which then failed to reply to further calls. Despite an intensive search, the wreckage of the aircraft was not found for 2 months. It was evident that the aircraft had collided with trees at high speed while in a steep descending attitude. Examination of the wreckage did not reveal any pre-impact fault that could have contributed to the accident. A post analysis of the prevailing weather conditions indicated that areas of rain showers and low cloud existed over the higher terrain in the region. It is probable that the pilot lost control of the aircraft after inadvertently entering cloud.