

## 1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

Andamooka, South Australia	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) 250 feet	Date 29.12.72	Time (Local) 2025	Zone CSuT
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## THE AIRCRAFT

Type and Model Cessna 172E	Registration VH-DIT	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 30.4.65	Valid to 29.4.74
Registered Owner J. J. Organ, 62 South Circular Road, Tullamarine, Victoria.	Operator R. A. Wright, Box 719F, G. P. O., Melbourne, Victoria.		Degree of damage to aircraft Destroyed	
Defects discovered			Other property damaged Shed	

## 3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Andamooka	Time of departure 2010	Next point of intended landing Point of departure	Purpose of flight Local	Class of operation Private
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## 4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Raymond Albert WRIGHT	Pilot	26	Unlicensed	55	242	Fatal

## 5. OTHER PERSONS (All passengers and persons injured on ground)

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury

## RELEVANT EVENTS

The pilot's Private Pilot Licence had expired on 31 October, 1972 and he had not made application for its renewal. He continued to fly after the lapse of his licence and on the morning of the day on which the accident occurred, he piloted VH-DIT from Adelaide to Andamooka, with three passengers. He had visited Andamooka on several previous occasions and at these times stayed with the family of his married sister, who lived within the environs of the town.

After their arrival the four occupants of the aircraft went to a restaurant at about 1330 hours, had a meal and began to consume alcoholic drinks. Drinking continued throughout the afternoon as other friends joined the party and the pilot was observed to drink a quantity of alcohol during this period. As evening approached the pilot made some remarks which suggested to others present that he intended to go flying. Efforts were made to dissuade him, but at approximately 1940 hours he left the group and hitch hiked to the aerodrome, situated some four miles north of the town. At the aerodrome he was seen to untie and board the aircraft, in which he then took off and flew towards the township at a low altitude.

Arriving over the town area at approximately 2020 hours, the pilot began a number of low runs, descending generally to roof top level except near the residence of his sister, where he flew just above the ground. While the pilot was flying past this house for the third time, the port wing dipped slightly and struck the corner of a shed adjacent to the main building. The aircraft then crashed to the ground and cartwheeled for a distance of 420 feet before coming to rest. Fire broke out immediately upon impact and destroyed the major portion of the wreckage.

## 7. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The cause of the accident was that the pilot, whose judgement and ability were impaired by the consumption of alcohol, operated the aircraft at an unsafe altitude.

Report released <i>E. J. Graham</i>	Designation Assistant Director-General (Air Safety Investigation)	Date 11.5.73
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(D.S. GRAHAM)