

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

10 miles north of Narromine, New South Wales.	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) 700 feet	Date 24.9.70	Time (Local) 1507	Zone EST
---	----------------------------------	-----------------	----------------------	-------------

2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model Piper PA28/140 Cherokee	Registration VH-PTD	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 5.10.67	Valid to 4.10.76
Registered Owner Narromine Aero Club, P.O. Box 162, Narromine, New South Wales.	Operator Charles Walter Wicks, 48 Third Avenue, Narromine, New South Wales.	Degree of damage to aircraft Destroyed		
Defects discovered		Other property damaged Power Lines		

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Narromine	Time of departure 1450	Next point of intended landing Narromine	Purpose of flight Property Inspection	Class of operation Private
---	---------------------------	---	--	-------------------------------

4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Charles Walter WICKS	Pilot	41	Private	9	182	Fatal

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

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury
Ross PICKETT	Passenger	Fatal			

6. CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention
A. N. R. 133(2)(b) 50(1)	The aircraft was flown at a lower height than 500 feet above the terrain. The pilot did not hold a valid licence in that it had expired on 31st July, 1970.

RELEVANT EVENTS


The pilot, who was the general manager of the irrigation property on which the accident occurred, and his passenger, who was the farm manager of the same property, were on an inspection flight to observe accumulations of water from recent rain.

The aircraft circled and manoeuvred over various sections of the property at a height of about 500 feet for approximately fifteen minutes and was then seen to make a shallow descent towards the homestead buildings. It flew towards a position where two employees were working adjacent to the property workshop and at a height of some 28 feet while still approaching the workshop area, it struck power cables. The forward movement of the aircraft was retarded, it nosed up steeply, then rolled to the left and dived to the ground steeply nose down. Several seconds after impact, the aircraft burst into flames and was completely destroyed by fire.

OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The cause of the accident was that the aircraft was flown at an unsafe height.

Report approved



(D.S. GRAHAM)

Designation

Assistant Director-General
(Air Safety Investigation)

Date

22.3.1971