

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199801175**

**Holbrook Light Aircraft and Ultralights
Rans S6**

10 April 1998

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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: 199801175 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 15km W Singleton
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Friday 10 April 1998
Time: 0700 hours **Time Zone:** EST
Highest Injury Level: Fatal
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	Total
Crew	1	0	0	0	1
Ground	0	0	0	0	0
Passenger	1	0	0	0	1
Total	2	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Manufacturer: Holbrook Light Aircraft and Ultralights
Aircraft Model: Rans S6
Aircraft Registration: 28-1093 **Serial Number:**
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Destroyed
Departure Point: Maitland NSW
Departure Time:
Destination: Cassilus NSW

Approved for Release: Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Three ultralight aircraft set out from Maitland aerodrome to fly to Narromine, with an intermediate stop at Cassilus. Near Singleton, one of the aircraft became separated from the other two, due to cloud. Radio contact was also lost. The alarm was raised and search action initiated.

The burnt out wreckage of the missing aircraft was subsequently found the following day. Both occupants had been killed. The Deputy State Coroner requested BASI assistance in the matter.

A limited investigation was carried out and found that the pilots of two of the ultralight aircraft found themselves above an area of cloud near Singleton. The lead aircraft descended through the cloud, into clear conditions below. The pilot of the second aircraft is believed to have also commenced a descent through cloud. The wreckage of that aircraft was subsequently found the following day. The circumstances of the accident were consistent with the wing structure of the aircraft failing from structural overload, following a loss of control by the pilot.
