

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199001178**

Gyrocopter

10 July 1990

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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: 199001178 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Redwood 20 km NE of Traralgon VIC

Date: 10 July 1990 **Time:** 1110

Highest Injury Level: Fatal

Injuries:

| | Fatal | Serious | Minor | None |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Crew | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ground | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Passenger | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Aircraft Details: Gyrocopter

Registration: Not Reg

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: "Redwood" VIC

Departure Time: 1107

Destination: "Redwood" VIC

Approved for Release: 15th February 1991

Circumstances:

The pilot completed some dual flying earlier in the morning in another pilot's gyrocopter. About 10 hours dual flying had been completed with this other pilot over recent weeks. He then decided to make a solo flight in his own single place gyrocopter. The intention was to fly eight to ten circuits and low passes along the airstrip to get the feel of the aircraft. The first circuit appeared to proceed smoothly at an altitude of about 250 feet above the ground until the turn onto final approach. When that turn was started the aircraft assumed a reasonably steep nose down attitude. Engine noise remained constant until the aircraft hit the ground tracking about 15 degrees to the left of the landing direction. A detailed wreckage inspection did not reveal any pre-existing defect that may have contributed to the accident.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The investigation did not determine why the aircraft hit the ground in the manner that it did.