

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198601402**

Rolladen Schneider LS 4

26 January 1986

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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: 198601402

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 1 km North of Benalla VIC

Date: 26 January 1986

Time: 1353

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: Rolladen Schneider LS 4

Registration: VH-GXG

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private (Gliding)

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Benalla VIC

Departure Time: 1353

Destination: Benalla VIC

Approved for Release: May 19th 1986

Circumstances:

The pilot was a member of the French team competing in the "Austraglide '86" gliding championships. At the end of a cross-country exercise the pilot reported that he was 5 kilometres from the finish line. The pilot of another glider observed that when the subject aircraft was one kilometre from the line it was apparently low. Shortly afterwards the glider collided with power lines. The tailplane was cut off by this impact and the glider then struck the ground in a steep nose down attitude. The glider was seen leaving an area of thermal activity with apparently sufficient altitude to complete the flight to Benalla. The reason why the glider subsequently descended to the low altitude which resulted in the collision with the power lines could not be determined.