

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198701444**

Kavanagh K160 Balloon

20 September 1987

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.

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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.

This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198701444 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 4 km E Rutherglen VIC
Date: 20 September 1987 **Time:** 915
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	1	3	4
Total	0	1	3	5

Aircraft Details: Kavanagh K160 Balloon
Registration: VH-HGU
Serial Number: KB047
Operation Type: Charter (Passenger Operations)
Damage Level: Minor
Departure Point: 9 km W Rutherglen VIC
Departure Time: 0815
Destination: Rutherglen Racecourse VIC

Approved for Release: March 14th 1988

Circumstances:

During the flight the groundspeed of the balloon increased to an estimated 12 knots, and the pilot decided to land in a showground. This area was surrounded by large trees. In the final stages of the landing attempt, the balloon was affected by a windshear and began to sink. The pilot activated the burners but the balloon struck a 15 metre high tree. Fearing that the balloon would overshoot the planned landing area, the pilot activated the rip panel. A heavy landing resulted and the basket rolled over in the direction of flight. One passenger was thrown from the basket and received a broken leg.