

# **Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198902593**

**Kavanagh 120 Balloon**

**16 December 1989**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

<b>Occurrence Number:</b>	198902593	<b>Occurrence Type:</b>	Accident
<b>Location:</b>	Sawtell NSW		
<b>Date:</b>	16 December 1989	<b>Time:</b>	700
<b>Highest Injury Level:</b>	Nil		
<b>Injuries:</b>			

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

**Approved for Release: 19th February 1990**

The pilot was guiding the balloon to a final approach for landing into a large clearing. He attempted to reduce a slight overshoot by operating the parachute vent, which is actuated by pulling on a line, of which the lower section is constructed of Kevlar material. When pulled, the lower parachute vent line became detached at a bowline joint, resulting in the balloon touching down near a large gum tree. After touchdown the envelope drifted onto the tree, sustaining substantial damage. The lower vent line was originally constructed from stainless steel but had been replaced with Kevlar in accordance with an engineering order from the manufacturer.