

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198702442

Victa Airtourer 100

24 November 1987

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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: 198702442 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 8 km North of Sydney Airport NSW
Date: 24 November 1987 **Time:** 1009
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Victa Airtourer 100
Registration: VH-MUQ
Serial Number: 102
Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Sydney NSW
Departure Time: 0953
Destination: Camden NSW

Approved for Release: December 1st 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot had flown the aircraft from Archerfield to Sydney earlier in the morning. It was his first long flight in the aircraft since purchasing it four months previously. He reported that the fuel tank had been filled to capacity on the day prior to DEPARTURE from Archerfield, and during the flight he had used the correct mixture leaning technique. On arrival at Sydney the pilot calculated there was adequate fuel for the flight to Camden and noted that the fuel gauge indicated "10 gallons". Twelve minutes after takeoff the engine lost all power. The pilot was then forced to attempt a landing on a sports oval. The aircraft touched down in the centre of the oval and ran through the boundary fence and over an embankment before coming to rest. An inspection of the wreckage revealed that the engine had failed after all the usable fuel had been exhausted. The fuel tank was subsequently filled to capacity and it was found to hold only 119 litres, instead of the 132 litres specified in the Aircraft Flight Manual, although the pilot believed the tank capacity to be 159 litres. This reduction in tank capacity had been caused by creases in the bladder fuel tank, and it is also likely that the fuel gauge overread as a result of the creased bladder.