

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602665**

Piper PA32-300

21 September 1986

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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: 198602665 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Scartwater Station, 130km SSE of Charters Towers QLD
Date: 21 September 1986 **Time:** 602
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details: Piper PA32-300
Registration: VH-PRM
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private-Business
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Scartwater Station QLD
Departure Time: 0602
Destination: Hanging Rock, 20km South-west of Scartwater Station QLD

Approved for Release: May 19th 1987

Circumstances:

As the aircraft became airborne the pilot heard a loud bang and upon inspection noticed that the left flap was holed and buckled. The elevator trim had also been damaged and was immovable. This resulted in the aircraft tending to fly in a nose high attitude. The pilot assumed that one of the mainwheels had been dislodged and decided to fly the aircraft to Townsville where emergency services were available. Enroute he was contacted by radio from Scartwater Station and advised that the aircraft was missing a mainwheel. After the pilot received advice from a flying instructor, the aircraft was successfully landed at Townsville. An inspection of the aircraft revealed that the left landing gear torque link bolt had failed as a result of fatigue cracking which had originated from a poorly machined lubrication groove.