Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198400052

Grumman AA5A

1 December 1984

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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.

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: 198400052 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 50 Km SW of Coolangatta QLD

Date: 1 December 1984 **Time:** 811

Highest Injury Level: Minor

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	2	0
Total	0	0	3	0

Aircraft Details: Grumman AA5A

Registration: VH-SZV

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Pleasure Flight **Damage Level:** Destroyed **Departure Point:** Archerfield QLD

Departure Time: 0811

Destination: Taree NSW

Approved for Release: 10th May, 1985

Circumstances:

As he approached the Macpherson Range the pilot was forced to fly around some hills in order to stay below the cloud base. After crossing a ridge line where the gap beneath the cloud was about 300 feet, the pilot was confronted by a higher ridge. He subsequently advised that the aircraft could not out-climb the terrain and he carried out a controlled entry into the jungle canopy about 200 feet below the top of the ridge. Both wings were torn off however the cabin area came to rest intact.