

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198903811**

Cessna 172-M

22 September 1989

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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: 198903811
Location: Maroochydore Aerodrome QLD
Date: 22 September 1989
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: 0210 approx.

	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: Cessna 172-M
Registration: VH-RQC
Serial Number: 172-61534
Operation Type: Not Applicable - Stolen
Aircraft
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Caloundra Aerodrome QLD
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Old Woman Island QLD

Approved for Release: 27th November 1989

Circumstances:

On the day before the accident, the pilot had obtained a short introductory flight in the aircraft which was later used. The instructor felt that he was above average in his handling of the aircraft. The pilot returned late at night, apparently broke into the flying school office to obtain keys, and took the aircraft. The aircraft was seen low flying along the Sunshine Coast over a period of several hours. The pilot later landed the aircraft on a taxiway without the use of aerodrome lighting. The only lights available were the normal Terminal illumination and security lights. The nose gear separated during the heavy landing. The Police later found a suicide note in the pilot's motel room, stating his intention to dive into Old Woman Island. The pilot had apparently been affected by alcohol. This accident was not the subject of a formal on scene investigation.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. Unqualified pilot.
2. Pilot under the influence of alcohol.
3. Hard landing on unlit landing area.