

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198701459**

Thruster TST

16 August 1987

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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.

Occurrence Number: 198701459 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: "Koongarra" (38 km NNW Warracknabeal) VIC
Date: 16 August 1987 **Time:** 1030
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Thruster TST
Registration: Not Registered AUF
NUMBER: 250040
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Sport Aviation
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: "Koongarra" VIC
Departure Time: 1015
Destination: "Koongarra" VIC

Approved for Release: September 24th 1987

Circumstances:

It was the student's fourth flying lesson and the effects of power were being revised. The student turned the aircraft 90 degrees to the left onto downwind but when he attempted to level the wings after the turn, the bank angle increased from about 30 to 50 degrees. The instructor took over the controls and attempted to recover by applying right aileron, full power and holding the nose up briefly. When the aircraft did not immediately recover, the instructor lowered the nose but the aircraft struck the ground, in a left wing, nose low attitude, before full control could be regained. After revising the effects of power, the engine speed was set too low for the aircraft to sustain a level turn. The student maintained altitude by progressively applying up elevator and the instructor did not notice the incorrect setting because speed was assessed with reference to the ground in a 20 knot tailwind. The instructor delayed taking over the controls, because he thought that the aircraft was being subjected to mechanical turbulence generated by trees, over which they had flown.