

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198402333**

Cessna 182Q

22 May 1984

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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: 198402333
Location: 5 km NE of Trentham VIC
Date: 22 May 1984
Highest Injury Level: Fatal
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	2	0	0	0
Total	3	0	0	0

Aircraft Details: Cessna 182Q
Registration: VH-WMF
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Pleasure Flight
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Quambatook VIC
Departure Time: 0815
Destination: Moorabbin VIC

Approved for Release: 10th October, 1984

Circumstances:

During the flight the pilot encountered gradually deteriorating weather conditions, forcing him to reduce his cruising altitude from 5500 feet initially, to below 3500 feet. Cloud covered the tops of the adjacent ranges and there were showers and associated low cloud in the accident area. The aircraft struck the ground at 2140 feet amsl, while flying level, banked 20 degrees right, under control and on a heading 80 degrees to the right of the flight planned track. Shortly before the accident occurred the aircraft entered an extensive area of hill fog whilst being flown at low level and at cruising speed. The pilot was probably attempting to turn back when the aircraft collided with trees on higher ground than a valley he had just overflowed.