

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198502533**

Piper PA34-200 T

6 May 1985

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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: 198502533
Location: Kempsey NSW
Date: 6 May 1985
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1650

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	3
Total	0	0	0	4

Aircraft Details: Piper PA34-200 T
Registration: VH-AOQ
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Non Commercial Business
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Bankstown NSW
Departure Time: 1650
Destination: Kempsey NSW

Approved for Release: 19th July, 1985

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that the aircraft was flared normally for the night landing, but it dropped suddenly and struck the runway heavily. Damage was caused to the nose gear strut. The pilot, believing he was losing control of the aircraft, carried out a go-around. During the subsequent landing, the pilot was unable to steer the aircraft which veered to the left and struck a cone marker before being brought to a stop. The aircraft had been observed to fly a close base leg followed by a steep final approach path. The pilot had misjudged the landing flare and during the subsequent heavy landing the nose gear strut was pushed upward through the aircraft nose, dislodging the windscreen and disconnecting the nose wheel steering. Unknown to the pilot, the propellers also contacted the runway and the tips of all blades had been bent.