

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198903817**

**Piper PA28-R180**

**23 October 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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198903817  
**Location:** Caloundra QLD  
**Date:** 23 October 1989  
**Highest Injury Level:** Nil  
**Injuries:**

**Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Time:** 800

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Piper PA28-R180  
**Registration:** VH-PXL  
**Serial Number:** 28R-30338  
**Operation Type:** Private  
**Damage Level:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Fraser Island QLD  
**Departure Time:** 715  
**Destination:** Caloundra QLD

**Approved for Release:** 3rd November 1989

#### **Circumstances:**

The pilot had intended to enter the circuit for Runway 05 however when he arrived he found that the circuit for Runway 23 was active. One of his passengers asked to fly over a specific area which was located below a wide downwind position. A preceding aircraft was also making a full-stop landing and would require time to backtrack to clear the runway. As a result of these distractions, the pilot forgot the pre-landing checks and landed with the landing gear retracted. He said that he did not use a written checklist while operating the aircraft. The reason the automatic gear system did not operate was not determined. 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. Pilot was distracted.
2. He forgot to extend the landing gear.
3. He did not use a written checklist.