

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198701417**

Piper PA34-200T

14 January 1987

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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: 198701417 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Latrobe Valley VIC

Date: 14 January 1987 **Time:** 1730

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	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: Piper PA34-200T

Registration: VH-STT

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private (Business)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Tyabb VIC

Departure Time: 1730

Destination: Latrobe Valley VIC

Approved for Release: May 12th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot was approaching to land in what he believed were light wind conditions. As he crossed the threshold he realised that there was a tailwind component, but elected to continue the approach. Touchdown occurred with about 415 metres of the strip remaining. During the landing roll the pilot became concerned that the aircraft would not stop before the boundary fence, and a ground loop was attempted. The left main gear collapsed as the aircraft came to rest 103 metres from the end of the runway. The landing attempt had been made in 12 to 15 knot downwind conditions. The pilot had assessed the wind direction from the smoke emitted by nearby power stations. He had not noticed the direction indicated by the two windsocks at the aerodrome. It was likely that the pilot was mentally fatigued following a long and difficult day at his workplace, and he may have been pre-occupied with business matters which were related to the reason for the particular flight.