

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198901575**

Airborne Trike

12 June 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.

Occurrence Number: 198901575 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Burrereo (13 km SE of Minyip) VIC
Date: 12 June 1989 **Time:** 1220
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 | 0 | 0 |

Aircraft Details: Airborne Trike
Registration: 10-0376
Serial Number: 104
Operation Type: Sport Aviation
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Burrereo VIC
Departure Time: 1218
Destination: Burrereo VIC

Approved for Release: 10th October 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot was practising circuits. The engine lost power at about 90 feet in the climb after the fourth take-off. Thinking his foot may have slipped off the throttle, the pilot lifted his foot and pressed down on the throttle again. The engine responded with full power. With the sudden increase in thrust the Trike adopted a steep nose high attitude. Two or three seconds later the engine stopped. The Trike stalled, rolled to the right and began to sideslip. The pilot tried unsuccessfully to recover from the stall. The engine failed because of fuel starvation. A plastic fuel funnel extension was later discovered in the fuel tank. The funnel extension had blocked off the fuel outlet from the tank. The funnel extension was completely unfamiliar to pilot. It is probable that the funnel extension entered the tank during refuelling by a previous owner of the Trike. It is likely that the funnel extension had been present in the fuel tank for a considerable time. This accident was not the subject of a formal on-site investigation.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. A fuel funnel extension had entered the fuel tank during refuelling some time before the accident.
2. The fuel funnel extension blocked off the fuel outlet from the tank to the engine.
3. The engine failed because of fuel starvation.
4. The pilot was unable to recover from a stall in the height available.