

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198702421**

**Piper PA28-161**

**13 September 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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198702421  
**Location:** Schofields NSW  
**Date:** 13 September 1987  
**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal  
**Injuries:**

**Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Time:** 1635

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

**Aircraft Details:** Piper PA28-161  
**Registration:** VH-MHE  
**Serial Number:** 28-7916193  
**Operation Type:** Private (Pleasure)  
**Damage Level:** Destroyed  
**Departure Point:** Schofields NSW  
**Departure Time:** 1635  
**Destination:** Schofields NSW

**Approved for Release:** 14 March 1988

**Circumstances:**

The pilot had been authorised to carry out circuit and landing practice. He had been operating for about 20 minutes when witnesses observed that immediately after lift-off from a touch and go landing, the aircraft assumed a higher than normal nose attitude. At an height of between 100 and 150 feet above the runway, the engine noise ceased and the aircraft pitched forward to a steep nose down attitude. This attitude was maintained until the aircraft impacted the ground, before coming to rest 50 metres to the right of the runway centreline. A subsequent investigation determined that the pilot had probably suffered a heart attack at about the point of lift-off, resulting in incapacitation and loss of aircraft control.