

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198301305**

Rutan Vari-eze

3 July 1983

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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: 198301305
Location: Lake Cataract NSW
Date: 3 July 1983
Highest Injury Level: Fatal
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1340

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	1	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0

Aircraft Details: Rutan Vari-eze
Registration: VH-EZM
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Pleasure
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Albion Park NSW
Departure Time: 1340
Destination: Bankstown NSW

Approved for Release: 1st May, 1984

Circumstances:

Following receipt of advice that the aircraft had failed to return from a no-sar, no-details flight, searchers found the wreckage washed up on the edge of a lake. A power line 20 metres above the lake surface and about 1.5 km from the wreckage had been de-braided over a two metre length. The aircraft had struck the power line, which severed the right canard, a section of the right wing and the propeller blades. The aircraft struck the water and the main wreckage floated to the shore of the lake. The investigation did not reveal any fault with the aircraft that could have contributed to the accident and no operational reasons could be found for the aircraft having been flown at low level over the lake.