

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198803434**

**Piper PA32-300**

**23 February 1988**

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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:** 198803434                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Ewan Plains (85 km SE of Hughenden) QLD  
**Date:** 23 February 1988                      **Time:** 955  
**Highest Injury Level:** Nil  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Piper PA32-300  
**Registration:** VH-BDG  
**Serial Number:** 32-7740092  
**Operation Type:** Charter  
**Damage Level:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Emerald QLD  
**Departure Time:** N/K  
**Destination:** Ashton Property (75 km SE  
of Hughenden) QLD

**Approved for Release:** 23 March 1988

**Circumstances:**

The pilot had not been to Ashton before, but had been given comprehensive information regarding the strip location. During the flight he experienced communications problems due to poor HF radio conditions. Shortly before his estimated arrival time, the pilot saw a strip in the kind of surroundings he expected for Ashton. He made an inspection of the strip and was satisfied that it was suitable. He was still having communications difficulties, and this diverted his attention to some extent. During the landing roll the left main wheel struck a log concealed in grass which was longer than the pilot had expected. He later learned that the strip, which was some 10 kilometres from his intended destination, was not in current use. This accident was not the subject of an on scene investigation.