

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199703895**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Tomahawk**

29 November 1997

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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: 199703895 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Hoxton Park, Aerodrome
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 29 November 1997
Time: 1210 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-38-112
Aircraft Registration: VH-FTX **Serial Number:** 38-79A0268
Type of Operation: Instructional Solo
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Hoxton Park NSW
Departure Time:
Destination: Hoxton Park NSW

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Student	7.5	8

Approved for Release: Thursday, December 4, 1997

A student pilot on his first solo flight lost control during the landing sequence. The aircraft departed the runway and came to rest on the adjoining grass, damaging the propeller and nose wheel strut.

The instructor reported that the approach appeared normal but the aircraft floated after the flare. The student applied some power but the aircraft landed heavily on the nosewheel, bending the nose strut. The instructor suggested that the student had probably not appreciated the aircraft would be significantly lighter without an instructor on board, and consequently be more likely to float after the landing flare, prior to touchdown.

