

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199704255**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Arrow**

26 December 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: 199704255 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 37km SW Mudgee, Aerodrome
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Friday 26 December 1997
Time: 1655 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-28R-200
Aircraft Registration: VH-TRZ **Serial Number:** 28R-7335003
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Wallan Vic.
Departure Time: 1400 ESuT
Destination: Coolangatta Qld

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	45.0	345

Approved for Release: Tuesday, April 21, 1998

The pilot of the PA28 had departed Wallan for a flight to Coolangatta. At approximately 37 km southwest of Mudgee, the aircraft engine began to run rough following a sudden loss of engine oil pressure. A burning smell and an increase in indicated engine temperature was also evident. Due to the inhospitable terrain ahead to Mudgee, the pilot decided to conduct a forced landing in a nearby field. The pilot broadcast a distress call to Sydney Flight Service (FS) and a Distress Phase was declared. Due to the field length and surface conditions, the pilot chose to carry out a 'wheels up' landing. This was successfully carried out and the pilot and passenger vacated the aircraft without injury. The ELT was automatically activated. Upon telephone confirmation of the situation of the pilot and passenger and deactivation of the ELT, FS cancelled the Distress Phase.