

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199601151**

**Maule Aircraft Corp
Lunar Rocket**

13 April 1996

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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.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199601151 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Sandfly, (ALA)
State: TAS **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 13 April 1996
Time: 1130 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Maule Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: M-5-235C
Aircraft Registration: VH-MEU **Serial Number:** 7231C
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Practice
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Sandfly Tas
Departure Time:
Destination: Sandfly Tas

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	50.0	505

Approved for Release: Wednesday, April 17, 1996

The pilot reported he was making an approach to land on the 090 deg grass strip in nil wind conditions. The approach to this strip is over a steep gully. The pilot said that approaching the flare the sink rate suddenly increased and airspeed washed off. He applied full power but not in time to prevent the aircraft landing heavily. The left main landing gear collapsed, the propeller and left wingtip struck the ground and the aircraft slid for about 100 metres, coming to rest at the left edge of the strip.