

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199603324**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
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01 October 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: 199603324 **Occurrence Type:** Incident
Location: Cowes, VOR
State: VIC **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Tuesday 01 October 1996
Time: 1021 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-31
Aircraft Registration: VH-OZN **Serial Number:** 31-285
Type of Operation: Air Transport Domestic Low Capacity Passenger Scheduled
Damage to Aircraft: Nil
Departure Point: Wynyard Tas
Departure Time: 0730 EST
Destination: Moorabbin Vic

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-31-350
Aircraft Registration: VH-OZM **Serial Number:** 31-7852003
Type of Operation: Air Transport Domestic Low Capacity Passenger Scheduled
Damage to Aircraft: Nil
Departure Point: Devonport Tas
Departure Time:
Destination: Moorabbin Vic

Approved for Release: Tuesday, October 15, 1996

VH-OZM and VH-OZN were on descent OCTA approaching Cowes. OZN was the leading and lower aircraft and both pilots were aware of and communicating with each other and the pilot of OZM had OZN in sight ahead and below. Both pilots were communicating with Melbourne Centre. When the two aircraft were on descent, the controller that he had lost the mode C altitude readout for OZN.

As they approached Cowes, the pilot of OZM diverted his attention to some cockpit duties. Shortly afterwards, he heard the pilot of OZN give his Cowes position report and at that time OZM was still four miles from Cowes by GPS. When the pilot of OZM next sighted OZN, after passing Cowes, the two aircraft were at the same level and laterally separated by approximately 100 metres.