

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199401349**

**Cessna Aircraft Company
Cessna Skyhawk**

24 May 1994

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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: 199401349 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 15km NW Bankstown
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Tuesday 24 May 1994
Time: 1409 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Cessna Aircraft Company
Aircraft Model: 172M
Aircraft Registration: VH-MHG **Serial Number:** 17263532
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Bankstown NSW
Departure Time: 1400 EST
Destination: Bankstown NSW

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	700.0	778

Approved for Release: Wednesday, August 17, 1994

About 10 minutes after departing Bankstown for a local flight, the pilot noticed a reduction in engine RPM. Believing the throttle friction had become loose, he increased the throttle setting and tightened the friction. Soon after, the RPM again decreased so the pilot commenced to turn back towards the airport. During the turn the engine oil pressure indication decreased to zero. The pilot advised the tower of the problem, and of his intention to land on an abandoned airstrip. The engine was shut down after it began to vibrate, and the pilot informed the tower that a forced landing would be carried out in a field. During the subsequent landing the nosewheel entered a drain and the aircraft overturned.

Investigation later revealed that a connecting rod bolt had failed, resulting in a loss of oil pressure and subsequent engine failure.