

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198903860**

**Moyes Mars Hang-glider**

**16 November 1989**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198903860 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Location:** Rex Lookout 34km North-West of Cairns QLD

**Date:** 16 November 1989 **Time:** 1550

**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal

**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Moyes Mars Hang-glider

**Registration:** N/A

**Serial Number:** None

**Operation Type:** Sport Aviation

**Damage Level:** Substantial

**Departure Point:** Rex Lookout QLD

**Departure Time:** 1550

**Destination:** Wangetti Beach QLD

**Approved for Release:** 20th December 1989

**Circumstances:**

The pilot attached his harness hangloops to the retaining strap instead of the keel tube. During a tight turn after takeoff the retaining strap parted due overload and the pilot plummeted onto rocks from approximately 200 feet altitude. The pilotless hang-glider flew into a tree. The retaining strap is a non structural part of the hang-glider designed to stop the hangloops sliding back along the keel tube.

**Significant Factors:**

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The hangloops were improperly installed attached to a non structural part of the hang-glider.
2. The pilot did not follow approved pre-flight assembly procedures.
3. The retaining strap parted due overload releasing the harness and pilot during flight.
4. The restraining strap was not designed for the flight loads imposed upon it.