

# The New Zealand Herald

## Spaceship home flies off to explore southern frontier

By John Weekes

9:50 AM Sunday Jan 5, 2014

Property

Residential Property



The Futuro house in Raglan is heading to Christchurch. Photo / Michael Craig

Like a spaceship taking off after a quick visit, Raglan's Futuro house is off to a new destination.

The home's previous owner Peter Farrell, a former sea captain, died last year, leaving his flying saucer-lookalike empty.

This summer, the Raglan house will shift to Canterbury. Ray White Raglan director Julie Hanna said a Futuro fan from Christchurch bought it at auction.

"We just sold that for removal at \$80,000 just for the spaceship. I think they're going to dismantle it and take it away on the back of a truck."

Futuros were generally made of 16 pieces of polyester plastic and fibreglass-based material.

Artist Judy Darragh and production designer Grant Major owned a Futuro home in Dunedin. Darragh said Futuros were warm as they were designed as ski cabins. Some were built in Christchurch under licence.

Darragh said their formica-heavy interior decor resembled a caravan's. "It is also part of New Zealand design history in a sense, particularly with the Christchurch connection."

Finnish architect Matti Suuronen designed the elliptical Futuro in the late 1960s, when the space race and science fiction films captured public imagination. At first cheap to build, some expected prefabricated plastic homes to gain global domination, until the 1970s oil crisis sent plastic prices soaring.

The Netherlands, New Zealand and California had the most surviving Futuro houses, according to Futuro-house.net.

Many featured aeroplane-style hatch doors and most contained plastic decor and fittings.

Playboy's Hugh Hefner reputedly owned an example and others became observatories, cafes and even a US Air Force recruitment office.

Futuros were where "the Teletubbies might live, with Barbarella as a frequent houseguest," the *New York Times* wrote in 2005.

**AdChoices**

**KNOCK \$1,000 OFF CLOSING COSTS**

Plus, Get a Competitive Low Rate on a Mortgage or Refinance.

Call us at (855) 209-3166.

START SAVING NOW >> **Capital One**  

- Herald on Sunday

Read more by [John Weekes](#)

## View more



[More mansion controversy](#)



[Land sales to foreign buyers at 7-year high](#)



### The good, the bad and the ugly



### Cartoons: Kiwi christmas for Fox

## National headlines

[Search for missing boatie in Wellington Harbour](#)

[Police pelted with bottles during pursuit](#)

[Weather: 'Jury's out' for January](#)

[Traffic slowed by crashes](#)

[Man arrested over attempted abduction](#)

[Woman in critical condition after crash](#)

[Body of missing fisherman found](#)

[US vessel joins in rescue](#)

[Collision leaves one dead in BOP](#)

[Man dies following motorcycle accident](#)

[Libya deaths: Four arrested](#)

[High-end lodge up in flames](#)

[Forest needed to cover carbon footprint](#)

[Mining divides New Zealanders](#)

[Ticketing changes raise passengers' ire](#)

[Aviatrix in awe of Holmes](#)

[Anger at contact from jail](#)

[More mansion controversy](#)

[Five arrests follow invasion](#)

[Body of man found in bath](#)

[+ Expand](#)

## Discover more



### Surrounded by sea and paddocks



### Resort developer connects with land



### Foreign buyers snapping up NZ land



### More mansion controversy



### 'Hair-raising' drug bust in Spain



### New Zealand Census

The census takes a snapshot of the people in New Zealand. Check out the results [here](#).

### Special offers

WHAT'S  
YOUR  
PASSION?

Judy Bailey discovers her passion for nature and wildlife here



Get 5 Dozen Optima TS Golf Balls for only \$99.99 (normally \$50 ea) only at Golf Warehouse



Air NZ is bringing you more deals every day so why not check out what's on offer?

### Trending articles



#### Lorde told to harden up



#### Nasty cake 'joke' leaves bad taste



#### Libya deaths: Four arrested

© Copyright 2014, APN Holdings NZ Limited

Toggle next article

#### More in National

Fears grow for Kiwis in Libya