

Balloon boy's father never shy about his bizarre stunts



We're sorry, this feature is currently unavailable. We're working to restore it. Please try again later.

Dismiss

[Skip to sections navigation](#)[Skip to content](#)[Skip to footer](#)

- [Our network](#)
- [Log in](#)

Open NavigationMenu





[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)

[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)

close

Search Site Search

- [Sections](#)
- [Network](#)
- [Home](#)
- [Sydney](#)
- [NSW](#)
- [Politics](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Federal](#)
 - [NSW](#)
 - [Victoria](#)
 - [Queensland](#)
 - [Western Australia](#)
- [Business](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Companies](#)
 - [Markets](#)
 - [Bulls N' Bears](#)
 - [The economy](#)
 - [Banking & finance](#)
 - [Small business](#)
 - [Media](#)
 - [Workplace](#)
- [World](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [North America](#)
 - [Europe](#)
 - [Asia](#)
 - [Middle East](#)
 - [Oceania](#)
 - [South America](#)
 - [Africa](#)
- [National](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Victoria](#)
 - [Queensland](#)
 - [Western Australia](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Property](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [News](#)
 - [Domain Magazine](#)
 - [Title Deeds](#)
 - [Living](#)
 - [Auctions](#)
 - [Financing](#)
- [Sport](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [NRL](#)
 - [Rugby union](#)
 - [Cricket](#)
 - [Soccer](#)
 - [AFL](#)
 - [Racing](#)
 - [Tennis](#)
 - [Netball](#)
 - [Basketball](#)
 - [Motorsport](#)
 - [Cycling](#)
 - [Golf](#)
 - [NFL](#)
 - [Athletics](#)
 - [Swimming](#)
 - [Boxing](#)
- [Good Food](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Eating out](#)
 - [Recipes](#)
 - [Drinks](#)
- [Culture](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Movies](#)

- [Music](#)
- [Celebrity](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Comedy](#)
- [Dance](#)
- [Musicals](#)
- [Opera](#)
- [Theatre](#)
- [Art & design](#)
- [Live reviews](#)
- [TV guide](#)
- [Lifestyle](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Health & wellness](#)
 - [Fashion](#)
 - [Life & relationships](#)
 - [Beauty](#)
 - [Style](#)
 - [Horoscopes](#)
- [Traveler](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Destination guides](#)
 - [Inspiration](#)
 - [Travel news](#)
- [Good Weekend](#)
- [Spectrum](#)
- [Sunday Life](#)
- [Money](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Super & retirement](#)
 - [Investing](#)
 - [Banking](#)
 - [Borrowing](#)
 - [Saving](#)
 - [Tax](#)
 - [Planning & budgeting](#)
 - [Insurance](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Healthcare](#)
- [Environment](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Conservation](#)
 - [Climate change](#)
 - [Sustainability](#)
 - [Weather](#)
- [Technology](#) Show subsections ▾
 - [Video games](#)
 - [Home tech](#)
 - [Phones](#)
 -
- [Drive](#)
- **Premium**
 - [Subscribe](#)
 -  [Today's Paper](#)
 -  [Good Food Guide](#)
 -  [Daily Puzzles](#)
- **More**
 - [Letters](#)
 - [Editorial](#)
 - [Campus](#)
 - [Column 8](#)
 - [Obituaries](#)
 - [Explainers](#)
 - [Quizzes](#)
 - [Podcasts](#)
 - [The Sydney Morning Herald](#)
 - [The Age](#)
 - [Brisbane Times](#)
 - [WAtoday](#)
 - [The Australian Financial Review](#)
 - [Domain](#)
 - [Commercial Real Estate](#)
 - [Drive](#)

- [World](#)

This was published 15 years ago

Balloon boy's father never shy about his bizarre stunts

October 19, 2009 — 11:57am

Save

Log in, [register](#) or [subscribe](#) to save articles for later.

Save articles for later

Add articles to your saved list and come back to them any time.

Got it

Share

Normal text size Larger text size Very large text size

Richard Heene, the father of US "balloon boy" [Falcon](#), provided a glimpse of the chaos he was about to spark when he described for a national TV audience in March his belief that aliens are humanity's ancestors, his latest madcap inventions and his unconventional approach to raising a family.

Appearing on the ABC reality TV show *Wife Swap*, he told of once passing out in a fast-food restaurant and hearing aliens speak to him. He boasted of his plans to build a flying saucer covered in aluminum foil and send it into a tornado. He pulled his children around a hockey rink on a hovercraft-like device and took them on UFO-hunting expeditions.

...

Want to unlock unlimited news?

Read more award-winning journalism from as little as 50c a day. [Get started](#)

Already a subscriber? [Login to see the full article.](#)

Save

Log in, [register](#) or [subscribe](#) to save articles for later.

Share

[License this article](#)

Most Viewed in World



[Former exiles return as succession drama swirls around world's richest throne](#)



[Trump complains that US flags will be half-mast on his inauguration day](#)



[One of America's highest honours was bestowed on a sporting megastar. He didn't show up](#)



[Royal nanny's stepson named as New Orleans attack victim](#)



[The Aussie 'bush carol' that hit the right note at Westminster Abbey](#)



[Soldier in Las Vegas truck blast left note warning of 'wake-up call' over country's ills](#)

[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)

- [Twitter](#) 
- [Facebook](#) 
- [Instagram](#) 
- [RSS](#) 

Our Sites

- [The Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- [The Age](#)
- [Brisbane Times](#)
- [WAtoday](#)
- [The Australian Financial Review](#)
- [Domain](#)
- [Drive](#)

Classifieds

- [Tributes](#)
- [Celebrations](#)
- [Place your ad](#)
- [Commercial Real Estate](#)

The Sydney Morning Herald



- [Contact & support](#)
- [Advertise with us](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Accessibility guide](#)
- [Sitemap](#)
- [Photo sales](#)
- [Purchase front pages](#)
- [Content licensing](#)
- [Work with us](#)
- [Terms of use](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Press Council](#)
- [Charter of Editorial Independence](#)

Products & Services

- [Subscription packages](#)
- [My account](#)
- [Subscriber FAQs](#)
- [Delivery status](#)
- [Today's Paper](#)
- [Good Food Guide](#)
- [Daily Puzzles](#)

Copyright © 2025

[Subscribe](#)

-  Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development
-  Store and/or access information on a device

Your personal data will be processed and information from your device (cookies, unique identifiers, and other device data) may be stored by, accessed by and shared with [134 TCF vendor\(s\) and 64 ad partner\(s\)](#), or used specifically by this site or app.

Some vendors may process your personal data on the basis of legitimate interest, which you can object to by managing your options below. Look for a link at the bottom of this page to manage or withdraw consent in privacy and cookie settings.

[Agree](#) [Manage options](#)