

'Make yourself at home!' Peter Blake hosts a garden party on board Lion New Zealand in Punta del Este during the Whitbread Race '85-'86

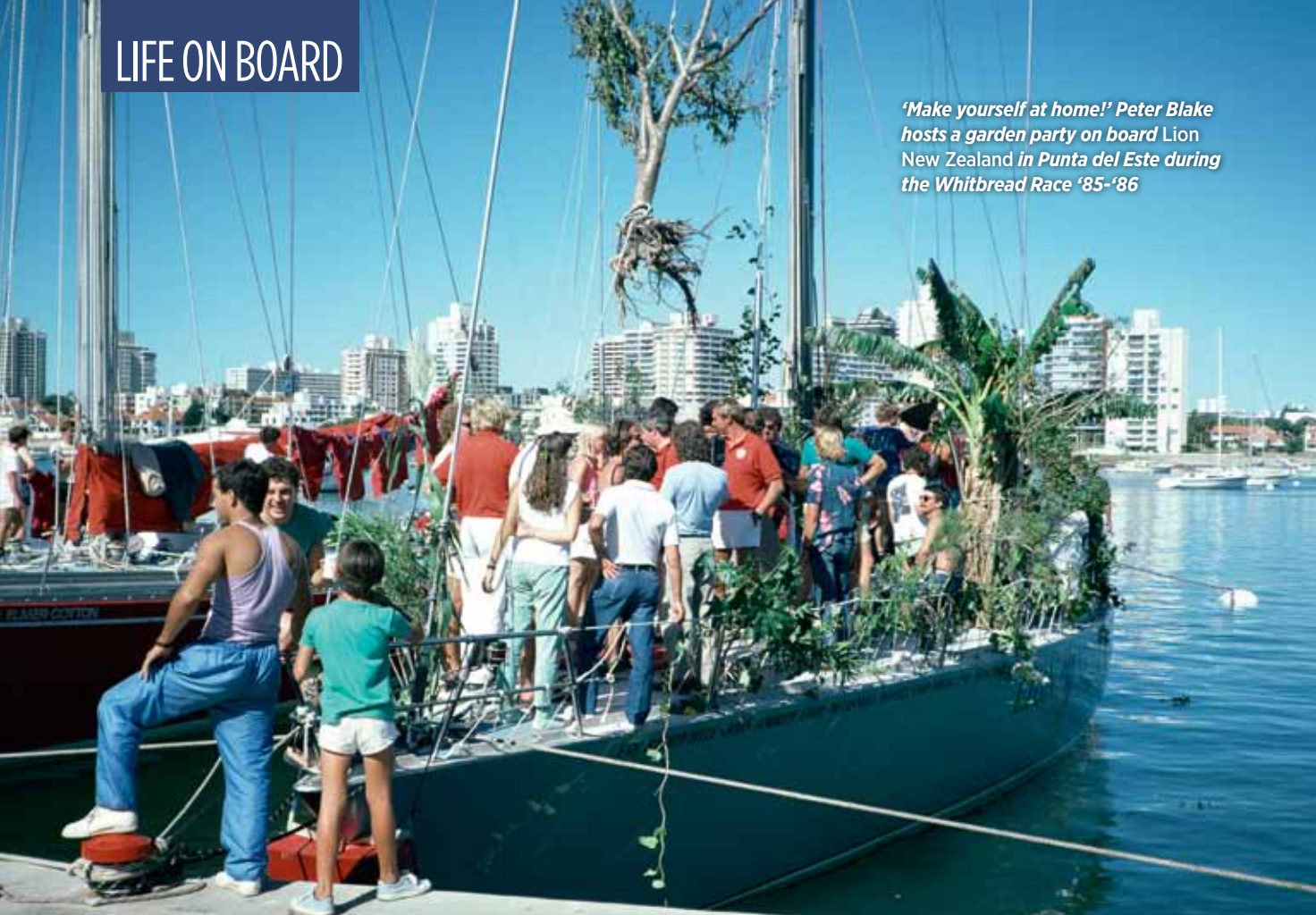


PHOTO: BARRY PICKTHALL/PPL

How to make a floating home from home

Tom Partridge and friends share their tips on bringing the comforts of home to the blue water life

Blue water cruisers know all about the importance of watermakers, generators and solar panels, but what about those home comforts that make life aboard that much more enjoyable? On *Adina* we have a number of creature comforts to ensure our boat is first and foremost our home. We thought we'd also ask our cruising friends about what they have on board that they treasure.

Cooking and blending

It's no surprise that most of the responses revolved around the galley, the source of most comforts on board. We're all reliant on gas for cooking, so a pressure cooker is popular. Slow cooked stews are ready in a third of the normal cooking time, and reheating a meal on passage takes just minutes. Our friend Harry on *Malua* uses two different sized pressure cookers and saves space by stacking one inside the other.

One of the joys of arriving by boat in tropical climes is the abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables. A blender is a great way to knock up a delicious fruit juice, smoothie or even a tasty gazpacho. And the good news is 12v DC models do exist.

Drinks on demand

Most sailors we meet are addicted to caffeine. Many people, including us, stockpile coffee beans and use electric or manual coffee grinders and a cafetière to make perfect coffee. Paul on his catamaran *Dafne*, takes it to another level, describing his ROK manual espresso maker as 'priceless'. YM's test of coffee makers (June 2012) and voted the humble espresso pot (£23) its winner, with the clever Aeropress (£22) a tidy second.

Need to keep your drinks hot or cold? Phil and Sara on *Lochmarin* love their good old Thermos pump pot. Phil says it's useful for keeping drinks cold in the day, and for pumping piping cups of tea or hot chocolate on night watches, to avoid disturbing the off-watch sleepers.



PHOTO: GRAHAM SNOOK/YM

Coffee is a big deal for most blue water crews. This espresso pot will keep you pepped up on passage



This Fijiian curry, made in a pressure cooker, demands china and good cutlery

For sundowners, many friends, including Luc on *Sloepmouche*, use an old-time favourite: a SodaStream. Struggling to find tonic water to go with your gin? You can make your own! It saves lugging heavy bottles and cans to the boat, and you're being environmentally friendly.

Civilised dining

Before setting off, we knew we wanted proper chinaware and glasses. For long passages, we stow it all away and use melamine plates and bowls, and plastic glasses. And how many boats have you been on with worn-out cutlery? No need for it – take your cutlery from home, kitchen knives too. David and Dede on *Andiamo* made a custom knife storage drawer for their prized steel. As for glassware, you can buy wine tumblers – wineglasses without stems – again saving on space.

Boats attract moisture so Paul and Claire on *Aditi* recommend lots of zip-lock bags, freezer bags, and quick clips to help keep everything dry. And don't forget white wine vinegar is the miracle product to give your lockers a good clean and protect them from mould.

A firm favourite listed by a few sailors, including Mike and Carol on *Tashi Delek*, is an Easiyo yoghurt maker. It's simple to use and you have fresh natural yogurt whenever you want it, perfect for breakfast, snacks and using in cakes and sauces.

RIGHT: Tom cooks ribs to perfection on Adina's pushpit-mounted gas-fired barbecue



PHOTO: SARAH SILVERSTEIN

PHOTO: SUSIE PLUME



'Luxury' time and labour saving fittings like this washing machine are turning up more often as cruisers embrace comfort

On deck, Laurie and Sophie on *Moana Roa* love collapsible camping chairs so they can pick a spot on their catamaran to enjoy the view or even take the chairs ashore.

A good quality stainless steel barbeque has many merits, including keeping the heat out of the galley. Our Magma barbeque attaches easily to the pushpit and we have made a dedicated gas pipe and fitting that makes plumbing it in a cinch.

Clean living

How about a washing machine? Many may scoff but with power needs more easily satisfied these days, a washing machine provides real payback when you think of all those trips to the laundrette or time spent hand washing. Like many, Sarah and Mark on *Field Trip* sail with children so a washing machine is a real benefit. Machines like Splendide are designed for small spaces.

Staying in touch

Almost everyone stressed the need to keep in contact with friends and family



A satphone like this, or an SSB set, keeps you in touch, Wi-Fi, DVDs and e-books keep you entertained

using a satellite phone or an SSB radio and modem. Close to shore, a Wi-Fi booster helps you connect to your internet provider – or that coffee shop where you enjoyed lunch and now have a password!

When relaxing, an e-book reader saves yards of space. Movie lover? Download all your favourite purchased movies onto a hard drive. If you have a host of tablets, phones, computers and TVs, you can link up your devices via Wi-Fi using free movie management software from a company like plex.tv.

The finer things

S-hooks are a great way to hang wet jackets, bags or bananas waiting to ripen. How about stainless steel pegs? They never rust, never break, and don't mark your clothes. Perfect.

Talking of wet, waterproof bags are a must. These days they come in many shapes and styles including very handy backpacks to keep your valuables dry on dinghy trips. Our Aquapac has become invaluable and travels everywhere with us.

Finally, if you have a passion, find a way to take it with you. No-one personifies this more than our friend Mary Anne on *Traversay III*. She loves playing the piano so much she had one built in below her berth, where the keyboard slides out and pedals are built in ready for a sing-a-long at a moment's notice. Home is where the heart is. ▲



Our friend Mary Anne on Traversay III had to indulge her passion for piano

PHOTO: LARRY ROBERTS