

Media Release

20 July 2007

The Migrating Kitchen Exhibition

- a first for Pataka, Porirua Museum of Arts and Cultures -

We're passionate about it; we die without it, we die with too much of it, we all need it...every culture, race and creed - and we all do it differently. It's food!

From August 10 to October 28, **The Migrating Kitchen** will present six ethnic groups including New Zealanders of Greek, Samoan, Russian, Chinese, Somali and Burmese descent, all decorating their own kitchen spaces and telling their family stories at an exciting new interactive exhibition at Porirua's Pataka Museum of Arts and Culture.

As a special treat, every Saturday afternoon from August 11 (2-3.30pm), starting with the Greek community, to Saturday 27 October, Pataka will host a cultural festival. There will be cooking demonstrations, delicious food to taste, and song and dance to entertain the crowds.

This is a chance to meet our neighbours, step inside their kitchens, sample their food, take away their recipes and hear their stories. Some have come to New Zealand as refugees, looking for a safer life, others as migrants who have been here for generations. Whatever their experiences, they bring their cuisine to spice up our lives.

As Stella Bares, a Greek New Zealander says, "It's so important to remind ourselves where we've come from and to retain our culture."

Visitors will be able to, crush fresh herbs, pick up some new recipes and the aromas will transport them to far off lands...whether it is Asia, Africa or the Pacific.

Another feature is the video stories of migration as well as learning how to whip up an ethnic treat, how to use the selected spices on offer, and watch the many colourful festival dances on DVD.

The curators, Jennifer Bush-Daumec and Anna Cottrell, both documentary makers, know food is a great entrée to any social group so they see their exhibition, **The Migrating Kitchen** as a unique way to celebrate racial diversity.

In collaboration with Pataka and RMS Refugee Resettlement, the curators along with the six communities are looking forward to sharing 10 weeks of food, festivals and stories.

Ends

For further information, media enquiries and interviews:

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Bottle Creek Gallery: The Migrating Kitchen Exhibition:
Every Saturday from 2-3.30pm there will be a cooking demonstration and song and dance presentation.

Greek Community	August 10 – 23
Samoan Community	August 24 – September 6
Russian Community	September 7 – 20
Chinese Community	September 21 – October 4
Somali Community	October 5 - 18
Burmese Community	October 19 - 28

