

Press release

20/7/07

The Migrating Kitchen Exhibition
Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures
August 10 – October 28
Saturday demo's, song & dance 2-3.30pm

Featuring in The Migrating Kitchen exhibition.....

Doris Chun, 89 and still cooking



Photo of Doris Chung

Caption: Doris, 89 checking the ingredients for her Sweet Red Bean Soup

Doris Chung 89, is the second oldest in a family of 18. There are 25 years between the oldest and the youngest in her family, many of whom are still

alive. Their parents came to New Zealand from China in the late 1800's and had to pay the poll tax of 100 pounds each.

When she was 11 Doris and nine of her siblings were sent to China, "to be educated." They returned to New Zealand six years later when the Japanese invaded Southern China to discover the family had grown. "There was another group of little ones," remembers Doris.

She was 18 when she returned to New Zealand and by that time she says she had lost all her English and had to start again. But she had no chance to train for a career. Instead her parents said a young man was 'asking for' her.

With a smile Doris says she had no choice but to marry at 18. "You can't do that now. They choose their own. They wouldn't listen. Imagine trying to tell the young ones today who to marry," laughs the mother of nine and grandmother to many.

Doris is an enthusiastic knitter, with a line up of soft toys and dolls on her sofa. She paints exquisitely and never misses her Chinese painting and calligraphy class. And she loves to cook.

The Migrating Kitchen exhibition features six ethnic kiwi kitchens, with video screens telling stories of migration and families cooking their favourite foods. Doris cooks a delicious Red Bean Soup.

Doris's Sweet Red Bean Soup

400 grams of red beans
1 cup of dried lotus nuts
1 cup of dried lotus petals
¼ cup dried mandarin petal (or to taste)
2 lumps of rock sugar (or to taste)

Put in saucepan and cover with 1½ litres water and simmer slowly until the beans are cooked.

The ingredients are available at any Chinese food shop.

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