

Korean Day

"*Samil Jul*" (March 1st in Korean) or *The Samil Independence Movement* is a national day of remembrance of those patriots who stood up against the Japanese occupation on March 1, 1919. We are very thankful that the Christchurch City Council has kindly reserved this day to be known as the Korean Day.



What is Ssireum?

It is also a day of celebration, and the Korean Society in Christchurch has for the first time in New Zealand organised a Ssireum competition.



Ssireum is a Korean traditional sport that dates back a hundred years. The contest of Ssireum game involves two contestants grasping, pulling, lifting, tangling, twisting, pressing, turning, and tumbling, as each competitor attempts to throw the opponent to the ground. The major distinction between Ssireum and other combat sports, like judo or wrestling is the objective: if a competitor can force any part of the

opponent's body above the knee to touch the ground, the competitor

wins the bout. Because Ssireum is practiced by grasping the strap tied around the waist and thigh, propping, pulling and lifting opponent in a posture of the waist bending 90 degrees, it normally requires considerable muscular strength and muscular endurance. It is equally important, however, to tactfully take advantage of his opponent's next body movement. Thus the technical aspects of the sport are at least as important as raw strength.

World Strongman Ssireum Competition

We have divided the competition into three groups according to age: Junior (under 18), Adult (19-39), and Senior (40 and above). Each age bracket consists of 8 participants. Winners from the Junior and Adult Divisions will collide, and the winner from this bout will face the winner from the Senior Division.

- Event Details -

- 11:00 Opening Ceremony: Buk Daego Performance
Singing of the National Anthems
Junior Division: Preliminary and Final (Prize: MP3 Player)
- 12:00 Intermission: Taekwondo Performance
Adult Division: Preliminary and Final (\$200 worth of rice)
- 13:00 Intermission: Samoolnori Performance
Senior Division: Preliminary and Final (\$200 worth of rice)
- 14:00 Korean Ambassador Medal Presentation – Jin’s Auto
World Strongman Finals
- 14:30 World Strongman Prize Presentation (Korean Air Return Ticket)
and Trophy Presentation.
Closing ceremony: Samoolnori Performance and parade
- 15:00 Wrap up and Clean up

Traditional Food Stalls

There will be up to 20 stalls all serving different traditional Korean food. Try some and please come again!

1. Beverage – Soojungwa, Sikhe, Cha, etc.
2. Food – Japcha, Galbi, Bulgogi, Kimbob, Mandoo, Jijim, Bibimbob, Hoidupbob, Jangtuhguksoo, Kimchi, etc.
3. Snack – Dduk, Ppungtegi, Patbingsoo, Hodduk, Pullbbang, Dalgona, etc.

Characters from the past

There will be some traditional characters around about the place to please the crowd.



Po-Jole – They are the most familiar type of police officers to public in old times. Nowadays people describe and exaggerate their appearance or behaviour in a humorous way.



E-Bang – They are officers of the local Police/Court quarter. Men of letters, their main role being secretaries of the Judge/Chief Officer. In modern times, humorously depicted as being masters of flattery.



Muh-Seum – Lower class, often working as servants in Yang-Ban (upper class) households. They are often humorously depicted as having super-strength and always secretly getting it on with the maids.



Jum-Jang-E – is a generic name used for those people who claim to have been “gifted” by a supernatural being. They are masters of fortune telling, through the traditional birth date/time method, palm/face reading, etc.