

ANZA KOREA

COMMUNITY, NETWORKING, CHARITIES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue no. 12

June 2021

Message from the President



Summer is Coming!

Some of us will be traveling to our home countries; and others will stay and enjoy the Summer months here in Korea.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current 2020-2021 ANZA Committee for their volunteer time and effort! Malaky, Udion, Yeseul, Corinne, Laurita, Henry and Cecilia; along with Leora and Ineke who also were part of the committee during the past year.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and relaxing holiday season!

Alexandra

ANZA Annual General Meeting

Registration necessary: <https://www.anzakorea.com/events/anza-korea-notice-of-agm/>

The current committee will present an update of ANZA Korea for the 2020/2021 year and then some committee positions will be opened and nominees voted on to the new committee for 2021/2022. Tea and coffee will be served. Attendees will be required to wear a mask to enter the Kyobo Building and social distancing will be implemented during the AGM. All ANZA Korea members are eligible to vote and we also invite members who would like to get more involved with ANZA Korea to nominate for any of the volunteer roles on the committee. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can nominate yourself in advance of the AGM.

ANZA KOREA

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

Thursday 17th June
10am at the
Australian Embassy

WWW.ANZAKOREA.COM



Member Spotlight

Meet Sara Meretiun 옥세라

Kiwi-Korean Sarah Meretiun 옥세라 is an aspiring singer and actress, with her stunning looks and bubbly personality, she definitely has star quality. We are lucky for her to take ANZA behind the scenes for a glimpse of what it takes to become a K-pop Idol.



My name is Sarah. I was born in New Zealand to a Korean mother and Iranian(Persian) father, my parents met in NZ in their early 20s. Im a proud Kiwi, with a multilingual- multicultural – multinational family!

Korea is a very competitive place in every industry, you decided to pursue your passion for music after moving back from New Zealand at 17. How did you embark on that journey?

I transferred from NZ Albany High school, to the prestigious Seoul School of Performing Arts (SOPA – 서공예) half way through Year 11. I was very determined to attend SOPA. It’s very competitive getting in because its famous in Korea for its very talented alumni. I was so focused on the entrance audition. I wanted to



embody the look of a K-pop idol, to fit the Korean beauty standards. I made myself loose weight to help my chances of getting offered a spot. I successfully got through and eventually graduated with a major in Practical Music and Vocals.

Tell us what it’s like to train in Korea to be a Kpop Idol performer. What’s the most challenging part?

The process of getting recruited into the K-pop world starts with choosing the company to audition for. Then you decide which genre to perform: Singing, Rap or Dance. You perform in front of judges, and you are permitted up to 3 opportunities to audition. The second round is a screen test. You are shot on all 360 angles, to see if you have that ‘Idol factor’ coming through the lens. The final round is sealing the deal: contracts and negotiations. You then begin your training period with the agency.



I was fortunate that after graduating, I was selected to become a trainee with representation by an agency, which is a coveted role reserved for only a handful of entertainers in Korea. It was not easy, we train long hours, from 10am-10pm. It's very stressful, the interpersonal relationships are difficult because you are always competing, there is a lot of jealousy and backstabbing among the trainees. The agency representatives in my case were not great either, saying a lot of hurtful things to make you feel insecure and making empty promises of launching our careers which never materialize. While I was a trainee for a girl group, the most challenging part was dance training. I don't enjoy dancing. And I stressed when I had to memorize choreography, which was every week for our trainee evaluation. I was confident in my singing ability but I hated when I had to

dance, particularly because the girls of the team were shorter than me so I had to contort my body to fit. I began to see how fame and the spotlight are manufactured and manipulated. So I left and decided to strike out on my own. The journey was not easy at all.

Tell us about your current projects, what does your typical week look like?

I'm lucky to have demand as a working actress and beauty model. I work as a freelance model on average twice a week, a total 6-8 shoots a month. I work on different projects as a hair model for shampoo brands, or cosmetics, makeup model, as well as advertising campaigns, commercial work. I filmed a starring female lead(role) in a hip-hop artist music video. I enjoyed the creative atmosphere working with the

director and film crew while shooting. It was a great and validating experience to be treated as an actress. It was the most memorable shoot of my life. And not long after I was walking around Cheongdam and I was surprised someone recognized me from that video.

Tell us about your proudest achievement?

Last year, I won the Foreign Singing Contest, hosted by the Korea Culture Association. I performed a Korean song and an English song in front of an international audience, including the New Zealand Ambassador. It was such an honor to represent New Zealand and to win the cash prize.

Who do you look up to, who are your inspirations?

The person that I look up to the most is my Korean grandmother Lee, she is 84 years old and a hotel entrepreneur. She has tremendous work ethic, to this day still works at the hotel. She's a great role model as a woman making her own way in the world. She has so much strength, she faced some difficult years raising her five children on her own after my grandfather passed away. And yet she provided a warm, loving, comfortable home for her young kids and now also her grandchildren, all by herself. I'm her favorite granddaughter, and it's great to know she loves me unconditionally.

ANZA Membership Benefits

Why do I pay membership fees?
ANZA Korea is about bringing the community together, building friendships and connecting people; and of course fund-raising for our charities. Being a non-profit organisation run by volunteers, the membership fees we collect barely cover the running costs of the organisation. Our membership fee is considered as a donation so that ANZA can continue to operate and the committee can continue to do our best in connecting and supporting people and raising money for the much needed local charities that rely on our support!
We are eagerly waiting to be permitted to recommence our programme of events- watch this space!
Keep your eyes open for some member discount benefits to take advantage of!

Current Anza Member Discount Benefits

- Create Wellness: 10% off a single session (not for use with other package)
- Millennium Hilton, up to 31 July 2021. 10% discount on single purchases of 6 bottles or more of the Australian promotional wines from South Australia
- Be Korea shop 10% discount www.bekoreashop.com
- Yongsan Market liquor shop & Tasting room 5% discount - 1-66, Yongsan-dong 3-ga, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
- Free Pregnancy Pilates classes with a BASI Pilates accredited instructor. contact: president@anzakorea.com for more details

STEP 01 Head to our website

www.anzakorea.com
Click the "membership" link

STEP 02 Fill in your details

One membership (KRW50,000/year) covers one household

STEP 03 Transfer payment

ANZA Korea Bank Account Details
Bank: Standard Chartered (SC은행)
Account Number: 100-20-954772
Account Name: ANZA (주한호주뉴질랜드협회)

We also accept cash however, bank transfer is preferred. Unfortunately, credit card is not available as a payment option.

ANZA KOREA

JULY 2020–MAY 2021

Australia & New Zealand Association Korea, we are a non-profit, 100% volunteer group committed to giving generously to the local South Korean community.

50 MEMBERS

COVID19 restricted many in person events, but we still had a strong showing of support among our community

FUNDRAISING: KRW 4,748,449

- Seoul Foreign School Virtual Fundraiser / Dance performance KRW 540,000
- Pink Party Breast Cancer Awareness Event KRW 3,045,649
- Christmas Giving Tree & ANZA Xmas Cards KRW 1,162,800

KRW 1,400,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

Gapyeong ANZA Korea Annual Student Scholarships

TOTAL DONATIONS KRW 6,148,449

*Cash donations total for 2020
Additionally in kind donations of 1 used Laptop to Dasom Migrant Center and toy koalas for Myongdo Welfare Center courtesy of Australian Embassy, Seoul.

Our committee is made up of 8 individuals with a shared interest for public service. We volunteer our time and skills to ensure ANZA Korea continues its mission. We are open to anyone who wishes to support the ANZA Korea community.

Visit www.anzakorea.com
email us at info@anzakorea.com for more about us and how you can get involved.

ANZA Korea Welcomes you!

Memberships

ANZA Korea welcomes all nationalities to come join our community.

Yearly membership is KRW50,000 and begins from 01 August.

Email us at registration@anzakorea.com