

April – May 2020

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AKA Reporter



Vale Terry McNeil





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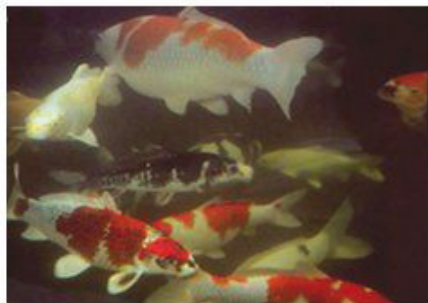
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*Deceased

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President's Report



What sad and difficult times the last couple of months have produced! Globally we are facing a pandemic of immense proportions and as a koi club have had to respond accordingly in the interests of the health and safety of all our members. For

the time being we have had to cancel all Monthly Meeting nights and Koi Auctions until we are told it is safe to resume these social activities.

The Sydney Koi Show 2020, originally organised for 31st May, has been tentatively rescheduled for Sunday 9th August. This is, of course, if it is deemed safe at that time to be held subject to the status of COVID-19. A decision on this will take place in late June or early July. Otherwise the Sydney Koi Show will be cancelled until May 2021.

Our two international judges have both been informed of this situation and are fully in agreement. I know that Mike Harvey has been able to obtain a flight credit off Qantas which may allow him to reschedule to this year or next. He is considerably out of pocket on his visa costs. Similarly, Shoji Saito is also looking at rescheduling if that works out. This is a great response from these two esteemed koi judges.

Please note that the Dave Pogson Breeders Trophy, normally held at our May meeting night, will be pushed back (if viable at all) to later in the year. Time will tell on that front.

I also remind all members who have taken out *Nichirin* subscriptions, that they are due at the end of April. I will contact each of you individually about this. However, newer members or those that have not done so in the past, may wish to take out a subscription—please contact me.

This month saw the very sad passing of AKA's Terry McNeil (see obituary in this magazine), a special close friend whom I will miss greatly. Over 30 members attended his funeral to bid him farewell. I am sure he will be long remembered as a highly-valued member of AKA who contributed a great deal to our hobby; he was also a trusted personal friend to many.



Wally and Terry McNeil.

Currently, his entire koi collection looks like going to a new home together, which is good news.

Bryce Hough has also been in the wars, health-wise, spending a month in hospital, with five days in ICU, and now undertaking 30 days post-operative treatment. It was nice to chat with Bryce today, who at last sounded like the chirpy and upbeat Bryce we all know. On top of this, Betty Ludbrook has managed to break her arm which I am sure is limiting a lot of her usual activities, although with the social isolation rules, the time at home will indeed contribute to her taking it easy for a while. We wish both Bryce and Betty a full and speedy recovery.

The next couple of months are going to be a really difficult time for all. Strange too, with no koi-related activities and gatherings!

I hope that all members continue to stay safe and be mindful of others. We can get through this if we follow the rules.

My best wishes to everyone...

*Ian Andrews
President AKA*

AKA News and Events

Covid-19 Update

AKA has suspended all monthly meetings and koi auctions until it is deemed safe by the government to resume normal routines. We will post changes as they are announced on AKA's website and contact other members via phone when we can resume our normal activities.

In the meantime we hope everyone and your families remain safe.

April Meeting CANCELLED!

The April General Meeting of the Australian Koi Association Inc has been postponed until further notice due to COVIF-19 concerns.

May Meeting CANCELLED!


The May General Meeting of the Australian Koi Association Inc has been postponed until further notice due to COVIF-19 concerns.

New members

New members are always assured of a friendly welcome when attending the AKA's monthly meetings. Help and advice is available if required and our Supply Officers can provide you with koi food and accessories at favourable prices. Call our membership officer (details on page 2). ■

Contributions to the AKA Reporter

We welcome any contributions to this newsletter. If you have news, articles or photographs that you think would be of interest to members, send them to Ian Andrews either by email (ian.andrews@fujifilm.com.au) or call Ian on 0418 255 897. Articles should preferably be submitted in MS Word or similar word processing files. Photographs should be submitted as separate files, not embedded in the article itself. ■



The AKA is seeking a new meeting venue

After nearly 30 years of utilising the Scottish Hall at Bankstown for AKA's Meeting Night Venue, the Scottish Society has decided they no longer wish to lease the premises. At over \$10,000 per annum we can understand why!

When we are finally able to reinstate our Monthly Meeting nights in the future, month by month we will meet at Sydney International Equestrian Centre Conference Room (down past Main Arena) Saxony Road Horsley Park. At this stage this will be a temporary set up as it is easier paper-work-wise to use this venue. It is also closer for most AKA Members who have to go to work the next day. ■

Koi food

It is hoped that we can continue to provide as necessary any koi food requirements from our four outlets. We will require payment upfront or similar, and with no direct contact—our suppliers (see advertisement in this magazine) can arrange for food orders cto be left out ready for pick up, having nil face to face contact.

AKA News and Events



Koi Net Magazine

Koi Net Magazine is featuring the first Sydney Koi Show in the next issue of Koi Net.

Members of the AKA may be interested in subscribing to *Koi Net* (the FREE on-line koi magazine) as it may be of particular interest to see what is happening in the koi world else where.

Simply go to www.koinet.co.uk where there is a simple form to subscribe.



AKA auction dates

Held at Auburn Botanic Gardens (entry from Killeen Street, Auburn). Commencing at 10.00 am. Quality fish at reasonable prices! Food and refreshments available. Fish food and other fish keeping supplies also available.



Bankstown City
NSW Chapter
Zen Nippon Airinkai

April CANCELLED
Sunday 14th June 2020
Sunday 9th August 2020
Sunday 11th October 2020
Sunday 22nd November 2020

Australian Koi Association—Mid Northern Region

These are difficult times and all of us are experiencing changes that we have never seen before. We cancelled our Autumn Koi Auction planned for March, as well as all meetings—until the situation changes and there is a safer environment for group events.

On the positive side, even though a lot of our koi and pond supply stocks could be hard to find in the future if the coronavirus situation continues, we have good stock in hand. If you require koi pellets, pumps, medication, etc., give me a call and I will organise delivery for you.

Stay safe and we will catch up soon! ■

John Irwin

KSA Auction Dates

May CANCELLED

Sunday 5th July 2020

Sunday 6th Sept 2020

Sunday 1st Nov 2020

Sunday 6th Dec 2020

Vale Terry McNeil—the loss of a great mate

by Ian Andrews

Terry McNeil joined the AKA a little over 20 years ago. He became one of the active members who regularly attended all of our monthly meetings, auctions and koi shows. He had already built his first koi pond at his family home at Denham Court.

Like many who become involved with the koi hobby, Terry's passion for koi continued to increase and he started to breed koi in an ongoing effort to strive for a higher-quality koi collection. He was an active participant in all the monthly table shows and became a very keen exhibitor in our Annual Koi Shows. He was very competitive and had a desire to achieve as much knowledge about the hobby as possible.

He soon expanded his range of koi ponds and enlisted Ros and Lars Lindberg of Allcare Ponds to carry out this work; at the same time requesting they build his famous underground wine cellar, to house another of Terry's passions—fine wines, especially full bodied reds.

Shortly after Kate McGill-Andrews arrived

in Australia in 2006, Terry decided to take the pathway to becoming a ZNA Judge. He undertook the task with relish and enthusiasm, requesting many koi appreciation lessons from Kate over the next year or so, taking the numerous judging exercises Kate set using colour slides of koi, very seriously.

Koi judging became another huge passion for Terry—he would soon be judging in as many koi shows as he could visit and indeed became in great demand as a judge. On the 6th of February 2010 he achieved the first step, obtaining ZNA Local Certified Judge status. Four years of hard work resulted in ZNA Assistant Certified Judge being awarded on 1st of February 2014. Terry was finally made up to full ZNA Certified Judge on 13th of May 2017 and was presented his ZNA plaque by ZNA Managing Director Misaji Yamazaki san at the 7th Asia Cup in Thailand. To say he was absolutely delighted would be the understatement of the century!

To obtain his full Certified Judge status Terry judged in many, many koi shows around the world, visiting Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia,







China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, South Africa, Belgium, Holland, England and many koi shows across the USA and in Western Australia.

He was a very popular Judge, particularly across Asia, as with Terry's tall stature and white hair he often stood out head and shoulders above the rest of the crowd. Indeed on many occasions Terry was often asked by many in the crowd to have his photo taken with them. Often local television would single Terry out for an interview on a koi show. Later that night on TV, Terry would be seen speaking perfect Japanese or Mandarin depending on which country the koi show was being held in.

Terry's ZNA judging role had a very positive impact on his temperament. In the past he could often be the grumpy man who did not tolerate too much not going his way, but after becoming a judge Terry seemed to mellow and became more diplomatic in his persona. Kate always told him this was a key feature for a judge and Terry took it to heart.

For AKA, Terry became a superb ambassador overseas and I believe put AKA on the map internationally, as Terry often presented our AKA International Friendship Awards in person. Indeed Terry would often purchase many additional "presents" to hand out to those he felt deserved extra recognition.

Terry became AKA's Honorary Treasurer and looked after our finances for several years. Many members do not realise the great support Terry gave to AKA. For example, almost every year around the time of our Annual Koi Show Terry (and Wally) would host our many international ZNA judges after the show at their home. During their stay with Terry and Wally they would enjoy many sight seeing tours laid on for them. Our judges would be given a fantastic stay and would take home many fond memories of their visit to



one of our koi shows. Indeed just last year Terry invited the two ladies, Yoko and Zulfiya from Japan to stay so they could act as formal Japanese Interpreters for our two visiting Japanese ZNA judges at the very first combined KSA and AKA Sydney Koi Show. For all this hospitality Terry never once asked for any reimbursement from the club funds...such was his generosity.

Terry's koi collection was amongst the best. He had a very good eye for koi and he continued to expand his koi breeding area behind the pine trees at the edge of his and Wally's beautiful garden. He had many fibreglass ponds built by Ralf Boehner and every year managed to take out a few of the major awards at our shows with koi he had bred himself. In Terry's usual highly competitive spirit he always said that his ambition was to win every class! A great many of us enjoyed this kind of banter that goes with all koi shows, as we enjoy seeing the overall quality of our koi improve every year.

Sadly, in October 2019, Terry was diagnosed with one of the most difficult forms of leukaemia and entered Liverpool Hospital in November. To say he had everything go wrong is pretty much an understatement, and despite the best efforts of his medical team Terry passed away on the evening of Friday 13th March 2020, at the age of 72.

We all will sadly miss him and our heartfelt thoughts go out to Wally, Tamara, Paul, Martin and his three grandsons. He was like the big brother I never had and Terry will forever hold a very special place in our hearts. ■

All about: pattern

Kate McGill-Andrews

Introduction

The final “All About” article continues from “All About Body Shape” and “All about Colour” to “All About Pattern”. In this short series, I focus on specific features important across many or all varieties. This third article examines perhaps the keystone feature of our complete fascination with Nishikigoi; the incredible range of pictures they present. Every patterned koi is unique and some are memorable over many decades, a classic example being Dainichi’s famous Inazuma Showa with her perfect red lightening stripe (photo 1 – courtesy historical *Nicherin* article). Interestingly, whereas pattern is something we all notice immediately, when judging, only 10% of total marks are specifically allocated to pattern as an item in the group of ZNA appreciation points.

A beginning

At what point in the history of Nishikigoi did pattern become important? Begin to feature as an essential element in koi appreciation? Difficult questions to answer, because multiple colours have been around on our koi right from the beginning, think about Ki Utsuri, (black and yellow – photo 2), one of the earliest varieties to be recognised, alongside Kohaku (red and white). Probably, in those very early days, actual arrangement of colour played a relatively minor role to the fact that interesting colour appeared at all – especially a mixture - on an individual koi. Think about Sanke (red, white and black). The very first three-coloured koi only survived at all, because a child at that time liked the red and white koi with additional and fascinating black spots.

Very important to remember however, are three facts. Firstly, the Japanese people have a very long history with respect to superb artwork and secondly, koi essentially are living pictures. There is a huge artistic element to koi appreciation; therefore it seems likely that enjoyment of actual patterns developed quickly. The very names of some early Kohaku bear this out, for example “Sarasa”, a pattern of birds and flowers. As other varieties developed many have been named for natural patterns and features. Ochiba Shigure; “autumn leaves on water”,



(1) Famous Inazuma showa.



(2) A very early variety Ki Utsuri.



(3) Tancho Sanke, red only on the head.



(4) A classic Shiro Bekko.



(5) Modern Kikusui.



(6) Asagi.



(7) An attractively patterned Shusui.



(8) Unusually patterned Shusui.



(9) Classic Maruten 4 step Kohaku.



(10) Shiro Utsuri showing extensive head sumi.

Utsurimono; “reflections”, Bekko; “tortoiseshell”, or Taki Asagi; “waterfall”. A patterned koi is like a landscape painting; a fundamental requirement is that the entire koi is interesting. The eye should be led smoothly from head to tail, delighting in each new element discovered, in addition to the joy of appreciating how the entire arrangement works together, often creating a whole much greater than the sum of the individual parts. This has to be one of the most magical aspects of enjoying koi.

The third and final, vital point to remember when reading this article is; that although we are examining pattern alone, the high quality of the colours involved are critical to the impression created, as is a good body shape (please refer to previous “All About” articles). In talking about pattern here, those essential qualities of shape and solid, lustrous, true colour, be it white, red, black or blue; are affirmed.

Positional patterns

For many varieties of koi, a particular position for a pattern element is an appreciation requirement. Probably the most obvious and highly specific of these is the red Tancho marking (photo 3), expected only on the head in the area between the eyes and not reaching to nose or shoulders. On a Tancho koi, no other red should appear anywhere else on the head or body. Conversely, Bekko (photo 4) are expected to have a relatively small number of neat black (sumi) markings along the back, ideally beginning at the shoulder and arranged in a stepping stone pattern on either side of the dorsal line. Sumi on the head of a Bekko is generally disliked, although a small marking on the forehead can be overlooked. In years past, other highly specific patterns were also designated; a typical example being the doitsu Kikusui (chrysanthemum water), a metallic white koi with gold or metallic orange patterns (doitsu Hariwake Ogon) which were expected to appear between dorsal and lateral scale lines to meet the Kikusui classification. However, in recent years this ruling has been relaxed and all doitsu Hariwake Ogon are called Kikusui (photo 5), regardless of the position of the pattern elements. Originally, Asagi (photo 6) and Shusui (photo 7) were admired for their highly symmetrical red patterns appearing around the nose and cheeks, in pectoral and other fins and along each side of the koi. As in the case of Kikusui however, in recent years other red pattern styles have been developed and

appreciated on both Asagi and Shusui (photo 8), for example a red marking on the forehead (maruten) or larger, more asymmetric patterns along the body.

Although a particular pattern is not prescribed, the actual presence of a pattern element in a specific position is cited for many koi varieties as a critical appreciation point. There are several examples; red (hi or beni) is expected on the heads of Kohaku, Sanke, Showa, Koromo and Goshiki (photo 9); sumi on the heads of Showa, Utsurimono (photo 10) and their metallic equivalents. Interestingly, lack of hi, leaving large white windows on the heads of many Hikari koi is quite acceptable and much admired (photo 11), allowing fuller appreciation of metallic sheen, very different to the non-metallic varieties.

Patterns preferred, but not essential

Certain positional pattern features are important for some varieties, but not regarded as absolute essentials in appreciation terms. A good example is the black pectoral fin joints (motoguro) of Showa (see photo 1), Shiro Utsuri (see photo 10), Karasugoi and any metallic equivalents (photo 11). Yes, they are expected, but if not visible the koi can still be appreciated. Likewise, a (large) sumi marking is preferred on the shoulder of a Sanke (photo 12) or Bekko (see photo 4) as a starting point to the pattern, but if it is not present, it is hardly the end of the line for an otherwise high quality and attractive koi. On three-coloured koi like Showa and Sanke, black patterns over white, rather than over red are considered more elegant (photos 13 and 14) as is white on both the nose and just before the tail (see photos 13 and 14). The same is true for the light grey base colour of Ochiba Shigure (photo 15), adding a sense of lightness and balance to the impression. However, that all-important pattern balance may be conferred in many other ways depending on the variety of koi involved. For example, the black and red Kuro Goshiki can look absolutely stunning (photo 16) and an Utsurimono or metallic equivalent could quite acceptably have a black nose and tail stop, although when extensive, may look too heavy (photo 17). It is always a question of degree, in creating each impression, and, how that impression impacts upon each of us. Enjoyment of patterns will always be a subjective area of koi appreciation; but there are some important ‘rules’ to remember.



(11) Clean white head on a metallic Kin Kikokuryu.



(13) Forehead and dorsal sumi on this mature Champion Sanke.



(12) Shoulder sumi over white skin on a Sanke.



(14) Most sumi against white, a lovely Kindai Showa.

The essentials of pattern appreciation

Every pattern element on a fully scaled (wagoi) koi has two types of edges depending on whether it faces the head or tail. The leading edge of a pattern element, closest to the head, involves an area where scales insert into the skin.

Because of this, dark colour, for example, red and black in the deeper skin layers may show through a preceding white area as a pink or blue, indistinct band ahead of the red or black pattern element. This feature is called sashi of



(15) Contrasting colours of the Ochiba Shigure.

either hi or sumi. The edge of the pattern is not sharply delineated, in consequence, in this area, creating an almost three-dimensional impression, which, interestingly, has become an appreciation preference for some varieties, like the black and white Shiro Utsuri and Bekko. The sense of depth given to high quality sumi, by the deep blue leading edge to pattern elements considerably enhances the impact of koi demonstrating it (see photo 10). However, there are two conditions to be met. Firstly, the blue (or pink in the case of red) band must be narrow (one scale width) and secondly, the band should be even in width along the red or black pattern element. No sashi should be visible for sumi overlaying a red pattern element. Sashi in this case is likely to indicate an undesirably thin hi plate.

The second pattern edge is that facing the tail, known as kiwa. This edge should always look very sharply finished, either following the edges of scales in a highly attractive, scalloped pattern (maruzome kiwa), or cutting straight across scales (kamisori kiwa – see photo 9 and 13). A mixture of both styles is fairly common on a single koi. Sharp kiwa is more easily achievable for hi than sumi, although recent years have



(16) Magnificent Kuro Goshiki, a very different impression.

shown tremendous improvements in the quality of kiwa of sumi (see photos 10 and 16). Where there are no scales (doitsu koi), or on metallic koi where the skin is highly reflective, leading and trailing edges of all pattern elements should look sharply finished for excellence.

No area of a pattern should dominate to the extent that it immediately captures the eye. A good example of this is the completely red head (menkaburi) common for many Goshiki (photo 18) and occasionally seen on Kohaku. Ochiba Shigure, which should demonstrate a Kohaku-like pattern of sienna brown on the pale grey base colour, often suffer the same problem. The result is generally an uninteresting head with a pattern much too heavy and out of balance with body patterns. A similar problem occurs when the last pattern element on the body is proportionately too large (photo 11), with no relief from another colour before the tail. Various fashions have come and gone with respect to patterns, for example, the old-fashioned Showa with its very heavy and extensive sumi or the “minimal” Sanke (photo 19), showing only very few, small sumi markings. Historically, Kohaku had patterns



(17) The sumi on this Kin Ki Utsuri is too heavy at head and tail.



(18) Menkaburi Goshiki.



(19) Rather minimal sumi on this Sanke.



(20) Exceptional quality, well shaped Shiro Utsuri with a rather lop-sided pattern.



(21) Heavy sumi balanced by heavy hi on the opposite side of this Showa.



(22) This young Sanke may outgrow its pattern.



(23) Kin Hi Matsuba.

confined above the lateral line, but as koi became larger, patterns wrapping deeply down towards the belly became the norm because they look more powerful and confer better balance on a huge, mature koi. Ideally, all elements of a pattern tend to look their best when they are in proportion in size, to the koi (see photos 9, 13 and 14). Positionally, this means that the largest pattern elements should appear over the shoulders and dorsal area.

Patterns should always lead the eye along the koi, but it is also important that both sides of the koi are involved in that journey. All too often, a pattern will be lop-sided, dominating one side to the detriment of the other (photo 20), although, as mentioned earlier, this will be less of a judging issue with a really top quality koi also having an excellent figure (as shown in photo 20). All areas on a koi should hold interest; hence the preference for stepped, rather than running patterns. On a three-coloured koi like Sanke or Showa however, sometimes a heavier red pattern on one side may confer necessary balance to make up for heavier black on the opposite side (photo 21). As long as the final picture is pleasing, relative positions of pattern elements are of less importance and, in fact, provide endless fascination, because they work for a particular koi, perhaps quite unexpectedly. Impact

can also change dramatically as a koi grows; a problem when buying and showing young koi. What looks right for size two or three; might not work at all when the koi is size six or seven (photo 22). On several varieties, patterns can also change dramatically as the koi develops. Kumonryu and Matsukawabake are classic examples.

Lastly, small features like red on the nose or lips (kutchibeni) or a red pectoral fin joint (motoaka) or even red over the eye (akame – see photo 19), often disliked, must always be viewed in the light of the overall picture. Never condemn a koi for one bad feature, which might easily be discounted in the light of other excellent points.

When is a pattern not a pattern?

As a final thought, it is important to mention this point. Often confusing to new hobbyists is the interesting fact that in koi classification and appreciation one particular “pattern” is not regarded as such. This is the reticulated scale effect seen on metallic and non-metallic Matsuba (photo 23). The koi appears to be two colours because of the often highly contrasting, dark, central wedge to each scale area, creating a “pine cone” effect. However, if the base colour (white, yellow, orange, red or metallic equivalent) is non-varied throughout the entire head and body, the koi is classified as single-coloured with Kawarimono or Hikarimuji. A vignette effect is seen on several other varieties (Koromo, Goshiki, and Kujaku), but in these cases, other pattern elements are also present.

Jargon Busters

Doitsu

Doitsu koi have either no scales (kawagoi) or a double line of large scales along the dorsal line with another at the lateral lines (kagamigo). The rest of the skin is scale-less.

Kohaku

A white koi with red patterns. If Tancho, red appears only on the head.

Sanke

Red, black and white koi. Black is generally less extensive than for Showa and is not expected as motoguro or to appear on the nose. Tancho Sanke has red only on the head.

Showa

Red, black and white koi with generally extensive, jagged black markings. Black is

expected on the head and as motoguro. Tancho Showa has red only on the head.

Asagi

Pale blue, full scaled koi with a darker blue vignette. Red generally appears around the nose, along the sides and in all fins.

Shusui

The doitsu version of Asagi. Doitsu koi have a maximum of two lines of scales along the dorsal ridge with a further single row along each lateral line.

Koromo

Red and white koi with a blue or black vignette effect over red only.

Goshiki

As for Koromo, but the vignette may be over both red and white or over white alone.

Utsurimono

Bi-coloured white, red or yellow koi with generally extensive black arranged as for Showa.

Bekko

Bi-coloured white red or yellow koi with black in the style of Sanke.

Ogon

Single coloured, metallic koi. Colours may be silver, cream, lemon, gold and orange.

Matsuba

Single-coloured metallic or non-metallic koi with an all-over, well-developed vignette on the body.

Matsukawabake, Kumonryu

Black koi with varying amounts of white, the proportions and positions of which may change dramatically over time. Kumonryu is always doitsu.

Menkaburi

When the entire head is red, usually involving both cheeks, nose and sometimes the eyes.

Ochiba Shigure

Pale grey koi with orange (sienna) brown patterning. ■

Photographs – Courtesy Ian Andrews

Judging Exercise

Having read this article, look at the four adult koi presented for this exercise and rank them according to which you find most pleasing, pattern-wise. However, other appreciation criteria (shape and quality) have to be taken into consideration since they are by far more critical.

Koi A – Tancho Showa

Koi A has a neat figure, excellent white skin and an almost too perfect round Tancho marking begging the question – has this been surgically enhanced? The sumi bisecting the head hi is pleasing in a classical lightening stripe typical for Showa. No hi shows through the sumi on the head, arguing good depth. White skin is excellent quality, a bright bluish white. Sumi is neatly organised on the body of this koi but unfortunately is far from full development, an important quality issue showing additionally, poor kiwa (trailing edges). Possibly a future koi?

Koi B – Modern or “True” Goshiki

This Goshiki is one of those koi you really look twice at; a very eye catching pattern of very strong hi cleanly set on a pale, although rather speckled grey background. This Goshiki has a good, strong figure and attractive maruzome (scalloped) kiwa to all hi pattern elements. Hi patterns are perhaps minimal, but fit the koi. The grey background is interesting and contrasts well with the very strong hi, but it must be remembered that Goshiki ideally, are expected to show a reticulated effect of blue or black netting the white skin rather than the speckling shown by this koi. This point must be noted about an otherwise extremely attractive Goshiki. This variety today are so variable in appearance it is probably fair to say that if the shape and quality are excellent, as in this case, it is the overall impression created that is more important rather than specific pattern style appreciation points.

Koi C – Kindai Showa

Koi C is an adult Showa commonly called “kindai” because the proportion of white skin is higher than usual for most Showa, resulting

in a very clean impression. The figure of this koi is strong and well proportioned. White skin is beautifully clean and probably the most attractive individual feature of this Showa. Hi patterns are homogeneous and neatly laid out along the head and body but each hi element shows some sashi (the blurring of red beneath white skin) and kiwa (trailing edges) are not especially well developed. Notice the sumi over hi on the head of this Showa. Red can be seen underneath indicating the sumi may be rather thin although in other areas over white it appears quite deep. Again the kiwa of sumi could be better although the overall impression given is very attractive. This Showa may well be another “work in progress”.

Koi D – Kohaku

Koi D is a classical, adult yondan (four pattern steps) Kohaku demonstrating a strong figure. Balance is excellent, with the largest pattern element over the shoulders. Hi on the head describes the classical kutsuhera (shoehorn) shape. A white nose is matched by a small border of white just before the tail and proportions of red and white promise that as this koi grows it will still have a pattern that fits. The hi pattern at present is perhaps slightly heavy but the quality of hi is excellent with beautifully neat kiwa. Notice that clean white gaps between hi elements are a similar size on opposite sides of the koi. Although this koi has no specifically memorable, unusual feature, the overall impression is particularly pleasing because of the excellent figure and quality of this Kohaku, nicely demonstrating the point that is far from an attractive pattern alone that makes a champion koi.

Order – First: Koi D, Second: Koi B, Third: Koi C, Fourth: Koi A. ■



KOI A



KOI B



KOI C



KOI D

Anthony and Romy's pond 2020—almost complete

By *Anthony Waring*

My pond has been in construction for over three years. The reason for taking so long is due to most of the work has been done by myself and I prefer to do things right, as such a large pond if not done so, could be disastrous.

Our pond is approximately 250,000 litres and has only the filtration to be connected and a bit of landscaping to do.

The pond is three metres deep at deepest which tapers to 500 mm in the shallows. It is approximately 26 metres long and seven metres wide. Over the three years there have been many challenges. Cracks in the walls were one, when the concrete was sprayed on a cool morning—we then got to 40 degrees in the afternoon.

The repairs I needed to do to rectify the situation took over six months due to a four stage application and grinding...a real pain. The

concreter then didn't smooth the surface so I had to grind to get it relatively flat.

The concrete is 42MPA and waterproof but after repairs, I rendered the whole pond with BondCrete and mortar. Then the pond surface needed to be painted with bitumen-based rubber that is fish safe. It took six 20-litre drums and a lot of hard work but the product is fantastic and held up superbly.

Another issue was that I forgot to put bottom drains in...DUH! So I core drilled the holes, and Ralf Boehner assisted with piping so all was sorted and would work correctly. The pond has two outlets at each end of the pond, which will create a swirling movement with two air dishes in the middle creating water movement.

The pond has been full of water for two months now and is still clear but is full of frogs and two turtles, they won't stand a chance when I put chlorine in to clean prior to putting koi in. We also have a leaf skimmer built in.







The pond slopes from all sides to the middle, which will aid filtration. Ralf built the filters, but we will add a drum filter later. We also have added three sediment tanks and two bio filters, giving the pond water turnover every two hours. I know every hour is optimal but with such a large body of water and circulation should be fine.

As I am still learning the koi hobby, the three years over the build has assisted my gaining of



The tea house framed up.

knowledge, and recommendations by members to make this project work have helped thus far. The water comes from our house roof and fills quite quickly. I prefer to use rainwater, as it is pure, as in Japan, to aid fish health and growth. My aim is to get the koi to a metre in this pond...let's see!

I will also have to check the pH after rain regularly. If I do not need to add any chemicals in the pond I will be happy. Possibly bicarbonate...but we will see.

I have tried to keep the system simple. A large body of water is my safety net if things go wrong. Recently I bought at an auctio Asian fired tiles to put on the teahouse, they go on next few weeks. I hope to have the filters connected soon and with onset of winter, this will be help whilst running-in the system ready for spring.

Lastly, I too would like to send off my condolences to Terry's family and friends, I only knew him for a short time and found him to be a straight-shooting, stand-up bloke.

Any recommendations from the members will be beneficial. ■



View from the house on our pond progress

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DracoDrum has continued to increase market share and we thank our customers for their accolades and kind comments.

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Flake-Tropical	1 kg	\$35.00
Flake	200 mg	\$8.00
Fry Food	1 kg	\$20.00
No.1 High Protein Crumble	1 kg	\$20.00
No.2 High Protein Crumble	1 kg	\$20.00
No.3 High Protein Crumble	1 kg	\$20.00
Baby Koi Pellets	1 kg	\$10.00
Pond Sticks	4 kg	\$35.00
AKA Growth Food	5 kg	\$40.00
AKA Growth Food (small pellet)	5 kg	\$35.00
Orca Quick Grow Medium	10 kg	\$85.00
Orca Quick Grow Small	10 kg	\$95.00

MEDICINE

Malachite Green	20 gms	\$30.00
Methylene Blue	18 gms	\$30.00
Clean Fish CF 50	1 litre	\$45.00
Condy's Crystals	200 gms	\$30.00
Oil of Cloves	100 ml	\$30.00
Hydrogen Peroxide	600 ml	\$10.00

PUMPS

XF 171 Davey Pump	P.O.A.	
HIBLOW 20 litre/hour		\$265.00
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Aquarium Air Pump		\$25.00

WATER

Sodium Thiosulphate	1 kg	\$15.00
Extra Water Purifier	500 ml	\$10.00

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Slurpy Pump — fitted for use		\$180.00
'Virkon S' broad spectrum disinfectant	250 g	\$25.00
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Air Tubing Green (per metre)		\$1.20
Plastic Bags (large) each		\$2.00
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TEST KITS

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Please Note: Members' orders for supplies for delivery at the monthly meetings are to be in the Tuesday prior to the meeting.

Members ordering supplies for postal delivery should send money order or cheque payable to Australian Koi Association to PO Box 6222 Dural DC 2158.

For postal orders email Anthony Waring at anthony@personalautomotive.com.au with your order and address, and Anthony will calculate delivery costs.

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