

June - July 2020

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AKA Reporter





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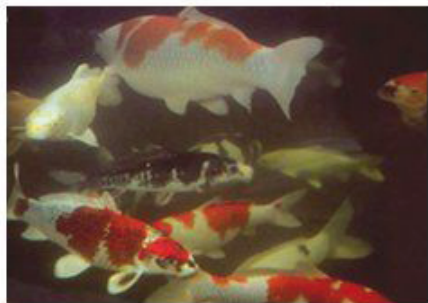
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AKA Reporter



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President's Report



It seems very strange to be putting together this month's report without being able to tell everyone of what a successful koi show we just held. The cancellation of the Sydney Koi Show 2020 was a real blow—but every koi show around the

world was also cancelled, so at least it was not just us. The past few months have shown us how much importance everyday interaction between people really is. Being stuck away from our friends and loved ones is not very nice, but at least there is some positive light at the end of this long tunnel and hopefully things will gradually start to get back to normal.

At this stage I do not know when we will be able to resume our monthly meetings but as soon as I hear I will notify everyone concerned, as well as put it on AKA's Facebook page and AKA's website. The same applies to our auctions. It is my feeling that these are still a long way away as gatherings of 100+ outdoors have not even been mentioned yet. Also, we are under the ruling of the local council for our auction venue.

Every year I remind our novice koi keepers that as our weather starts to get cooler, it is time to watch your pond's water temperature, reduce your koi feeding, use wheat-germ-based koi food and when the water reaches 10-12 degrees C, cease feeding completely. Your fish will not have the need for food in this temperature range and it is believed it also assists with building stronger bone development. Also, some believe it helps reduce the risk of tumours, as a koi's ability to digest food when low water temperatures are experienced is severely reduced. Therefore it is strongly recommended to stop completely and wait till the water starts to warm in the Spring.

Just a update on the late Terry McNeil's koi and koi equipment: we have managed to sell nearly all his koi with just a few remaining that will stay with the new owner once the house sale has been settled. Fortunately all but 18 stayed in NSW. As for the breeding ponds most have been sold, however there is a pile of pumps and

sundries I have yet to sort and will bring these items to our first meeting when we are able to run one. It's been a sad time selling off your friend's koi and kit, something I don't want to have to do again.



We have just been informed by Peter Gallagher of the passing of his father, AKA Foundation Member Laurie Gallagher on 7th May 2020. The photo above shows Laurie receiving AKA's Grand Champion trophy from Dr Takeo Kuroki, the man largely responsible for opening the eyes of most of the world to the koi hobby. Our condolences go to Laurie's family.

At this stage we have tentative dates in place to hold the Sydney Koi Show 2021 on any of the last three weekends in May 2021. Come January we can firm that up with the Equestrian Centre. Needless to say everything is in place and we are definitely going to make it a special event. I for one can't wait.

In the meantime we are looking at holding a Virtual Koi Show between MEMBERS OF ALL KOI CLUBS in Australia later this year (see details further on in this magazine).

Lastly, on behalf of AKA I would like to offer belated but heartfelt condolences to Bradley Bradley and daughter Emily on the tragic loss of their wife and mother Shelley.

Yours in koi
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. ■

July Meeting CANCELLED!

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

August Meeting MIGHT GO AHEAD (watch this space)!


If COVID-19 restrictions are further lifted it may be possible to hold a general meeting in August. To be advised. ■

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

Sunday 14th June 2020 **CANCELLED**
Sunday 9th August 2020 **TO BE ADVISED**
Sunday 11th October 2020
Sunday 22nd November 2020

Australian Koi Association—Mid Northern Region

Nothing to report on the local scene due to our COVID-19 shutdown. We are all looking forward to when we can return to normal operations. As soon as it's safe to do so we will advise all Northern Members accordingly.

We still can organise any koi food needs for you, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you require assistance.

Also, just a reminder to all our Northern Members that the AKA Annual Subscriptions are due 1st July. ■

John Irwin

KSA Auction Dates

Sunday 5th July 2020 - to be advised!

Sunday 6th Sept 2020

Sunday 1st Nov 2020

Sunday 6th Dec 2020

All about—Impact!

Kate McGill-Andrews

In this short series, I have focussed on some specific features important across many or all varieties. This fourth and final article studies, (in addition to some important “add on” features like kin-gin-rin and fukurin), that most elusive of issues—why some koi “work” and some do not. What is the difference between a good koi and one that is truly superb (photo 1)? Why are some koi always talked about, remembered, move the goal posts for koi appreciation, become landmarks for future directions?

Some Basics

There are a fundamental group of koi appreciation points which our koi must meet, to stand even a chance of exhibiting that highly sought after “wow factor”, although, paradoxically, achieving a high standard “by the book” (photo 2), will not necessarily confer it, as we shall see later.

Koi appreciation has a structure to it, because without such a firm basis, it would not be possible to judge one koi against another either fairly or successfully. The structure is made up of a number of points, rather than precise standards, common for other show animals or birds, because in the case of koi, there have never been any possible hard and fast “standards”. Koi are just too innately variable. Think of the “points” as best possible scenarios, with latitude on either side.

Koi appreciation points include:

1. The overall shape and proportions of head, body and fins—the conformation of the koi. This is the most critical of all appreciation points. Without a good shape (photo 3), you cannot hope to have even a good koi, let alone a high impact one (refer to “All About Body Shape”).
2. The overall quality of the skin. Not easy to describe, or demonstrate in a photograph, high skin quality confers an almost liquid-

looking, or lacquered finish. Colour appears bright, true, shiny and smooth with a soft depth to it. Scale edges are almost invisible (photos 1 and 4).

3. The qualities of colour, pattern, pattern edges and pattern balance; points 2 and 3 are discussed in the previous two articles of this series
4. The requirements of appearance specific to particular varieties—variety characteristics. For example, the presence of red; as a large, preferably round marking on the forehead only, of Tancho koi (photo 5), or the requirement for a sharply delineated vignette, or scale reticulated effect, on groups like Asagi, Matsuba, Kujaku and Koromo (photo 6) (points 2, 3 and 4 refer to “All About Colour” and “All About Pattern”)
5. Deportment—how the koi carries itself in the water, a point dependent on many other variables, including the health of the koi and the conditions of the water, for example, pH, temperature, contaminant level (ammonia, nitrite etc.) A koi needs to present itself well to be eye-catching.

Do “Add On” Features Make a Difference?

Over the years, the appearance of many koi varieties has altered both by accident and also by design. For example, desirable proportion of black (sumi) on Showa, size and position of sumi markings on Sanke or level of red (hi or beni) pattern wrapping on Kohaku. Very probably, increase in achievable final size has had tremendous influence upon changes of this nature. For example, impact made by an over 80 centimetre Kohaku cannot fail to be greater if the koi demonstrates large, deeply wrapping hi markings, in proportion to its size and body volume. Smaller patterns confined above the lateral line, as originally preferred, lack impressiveness against a background of massive physical proportions (compare photo 7 to photos 1 and 2).

Some original genetic “accidents” are eventually stabilised, creating in some cases, new varieties, as for kin-gin-rin (photo 8) or the metallic Ogon (photo 9), while results of intensive breeding can introduce changes to appreciation criteria, for example the appearance



(1) S Legend, unanimous winner of the 2016 ZNA International Koi Show. One of the highest impact koi of all time.



(2) High quality Superior Champion Kohaku.



(3) High quality cannot make up for an imperfect figure. Notice the head of this koi is bent left.



(4) Very high quality, high impact Sanke.



(5) Tancho Sanke with lovely delicate skin.



(6) Neat reticulation on this young Kujaku.



(7) Small hi markings lack impressiveness on a large koi.



(8) Close-up of Kin-Gin-Rin scaling on an Ochiai Shigure.



(9) Beautiful golden Yamabuki Ogon.

of fukurin on non-metallic koi. Long recognised on metallic varieties (photos 9 and 10), fukurin has become a desirable feature of non-metallic skin only relatively recently. Fukurin (see photos 9 and 10) is the delicately reticulated, slightly three-dimensional appearance of skin and scales together, on a fully scaled koi. Skin surrounding each scale looks slightly proud, probably due to the differences in light refraction between layers of skin over and around scales. Fukurin on non-metallic koi generally develops as the koi reaches maturity and is usually only clearly visible on white skin (photo 11), although occasionally may be seen over hi. Associated with high skin quality, there is no denying that the subtle vignette effect offered by fukurin adds to the impact of a koi displaying it, simply because the skin appearance is improved (compare photos 1 and 2 with photo 12).

With a long history, beginning in the late 1920s, kin-gin-gin scaling is quite different from fukurin, although confusion between the two features has occurred in the past. There is no subtlety at all about kin-gin-rin; it is flashy and immediately obvious (photo 13), a feature, hobbyists tend to love or hate. Each scale has either multiple shiny lines across it (Hiroshima



(10) Close-up of fukurin on metallic skin.



(11) Fukurin on non-metallic shiroji (white skin).

gin, (see photos 8 and 13)) or the entire scale is shiny and mirror-like (beta gin—quite rare). On a good example, at least three complete lines of scales (and often more) on either side of the dorsal fin shine equally along the entire length of the back, visible from any angle and sparkingly eye-catching. Almost every variety of koi has a kin-gin-rin version (see photo 13 and 20), although the show variety Kin-Gin-Rin “A” holds only Kin-Gin-Rin Go-Sanke (Kohaku, Sanke and Showa (see photos 14 and 16). Early, patterned kin-gin-rin koi were not always attractive, because this feature distorted some colours, as well as pattern edges. Kin-gin-rin has been spoken of in the past quite scathingly, as an add-on to “sell” poorer quality koi (photo 15).

However, in recent years such a comment would be very far from the truth. Quite stunning kin-gin-rin, top quality patterned koi have been produced with no visible disruption to pattern elements, just an incredible additional shine (see photos 14 and 16). Now commonly seen on otherwise rather plain, single-coloured koi like Chagoi and Sorogoi (see photo 13), the added brightness of kin-gin-rin scaling has markedly improved their popularity. Top quality kin-gin-rin koi tend to turn the heads of hobbyists for another look even when they are quite small—not a common occurrence. Kin-gin-rin scaling can confer very high impact on first view of a koi carrying it, simply because it is so flashy (photo 16), but alone, it is not sufficient to create that very elusive and desirable dream—the totally memorable, high impact koi.

Also worth mentioning at this point are the



(12) Nice quality Sanke but no fukurin and little impact.

metallic varieties. Like kin-gin-rin, their beautiful shine is immediately eye-catching and has attracted many hobbyists over the years. Indeed, it is said that the Ogon has brought more people into the koi hobby than any other variety. The first single coloured Ogon appeared in the 1940s and they have maintained a huge popularity ever since. Although not generally memorable as



(13) Gin-Rin Sorogoi.



(14) Kin-Gin-Rin Showa.



(15) Bright Gin-Rin but a poor quality Tancho Sanke.



(16) Very bright kin-gin-rin on this Kohaku.



(17) The initial impact of a truly massive koi.



(18) The impact of colour.



(19) Shiro Utsuri, the stark impressiveness of black and white.



(20) Gin-Rin Shiro Bekko. Beautiful white skin but unimpressive sumi.



(21) The impact of a higher proportion and interesting placement of sumi on this Showa.



(22) This Sanke shows excellent quality sumi but its impact is not particularly high.



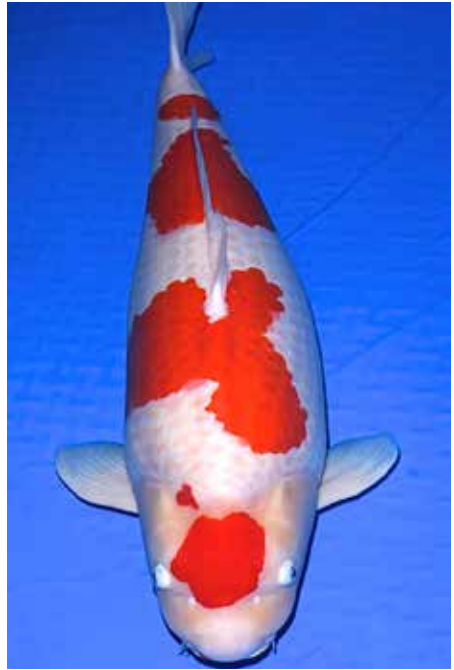
(23) The famous Lion Queen, a Champion high impact Showa..but not a beauty.



(24) Not pretty but a high impact Goshiki combining the unusual with high quality.



(25) Lovely quality but not a memorable Kohaku.



(26) An easily recognisable champion Kohaku.



(27) The impact of the unusual coupled with stunning quality.



(28) Another very unusual but top quality koi resulting in exceptional impact.

individuals, the impact of a huge, well-shaped, brightly shining golden koi is undeniable and stunning (see photo 9).

The Real “Wow Factor”

Impact, literally, means “forceful influence”; the ability to dominate, to impress and to compel attention.

To at least some extent, impact has to contain an element of subjectivity; different people will respond differently to a koi for the same reason they will respond differently to a painting, for example, a famous Picasso. Even though you might know it to be a masterpiece and appreciate its quality, on a personal level, it might do nothing for you at all. However, in the case of both paintings and koi, (to remain with our examples), there are some instances where everyone remembers the subject because it is impossible not to do so. Its impact is so high. The real question is, why?

Clearly, in the case of koi, large size has to be considered in the impact equation. Any 80 centimetre plus, jumbo koi seen for the first time (photo 17), particularly by the untrained eye of a complete novice, is going to look pretty impressive, even if the koi demonstrates a few problems. Generally, people don't encounter huge fish at close quarters very often.

Metallic finish, particularly attached to large size as mentioned above, is another known attractant, especially for the novice to koi appreciation. The brilliant golden or silver sheen of a beautiful Ogon is irrefutably memorable in the abstract (see photo 9). Shiny kin-gin-rin might fall into the same eye-catching category. You remember seeing the shine, although you probably would not recognise a specific individual koi (see photos 13 and 16).

Colour is another obvious element towards impact. Some colours are definitely higher impact and more memorable than others (photo 18). I sometimes think that a Chagoi or Sorogoi being described as “quietly elegant” is a polite way of saying brown and grey fade unremarkably into the background! This is not to denigrate these varieties however, often the friendliest koi in the pond and great favourites with the family. However it is undeniable that a bright red Benigo, or even yellow Kigo is of higher impact visually.

Colour really begins to assume high significance in our impact equation when more than one appears on an individual koi. The way

colours interact on individual koi can be truly magical. The absolutely stark impressiveness of black and white is perhaps one of the finest examples (photo 19), in the same way that sometimes a black and white photograph is more impressive than a colour equivalent of the same shot. Vitally important to remember however, is that the relative proportions, and to some extent, placement of the colours involved critically affect their impact (compare the Sanke in photos 4 and 12). Another very simple example is the difference presented by black and white Shiro Bekko (photo 20) and Shiro Utsuri (photo 19). Assuming similar size, level of conformation and quality of colour, probably 99% of koi hobbyists as well as the general public would admire and remember the Shiro Utsuri over the Bekko.

Given equal sumi quality for both varieties, the critical difference between the two lies in its proportion, style and placement. The same is true for Showa and Sanke (compare photos 21 and 22). Both have red and white, but the difference lies in the sumi. Pattern therefore, must also be accepted as playing some role in the creation of impact although interestingly, pattern style has never figured largely as a major contributor to koi appreciation. Basically, a koi does not have to be attractive to be impressive. Some remarkably un-lovely looking koi have incredibly high impact due to their sheer body volume and overall superb quality (photos 23 and 24), while some attractively patterned koi are particularly unmemorable (see photos 12 and 25). Impact is more about the relative power conferred by the quality, size, placement and sometimes the shape of pattern elements coupled with size and conformation of an individual koi (photo 26).

The creation of high impact can be quite a paradox, but one in which the unique meld of excellent shape, glowing, distinctive colours and razor sharp edges to solid pattern elements work together to create an unforgettable final impression for a particular koi (photo 1), sometimes further enhanced by an unusual feature (photo 4). The “whole” is far greater than the sum of individual “parts” could ever predict. All the elements of koi appreciation are involved to form an incredibly special living work of art that is a study in itself (photos 27 and 28). ■

Judging Exercise

Having read this article, examine the four adult koi presented for this exercise and pick out your highest impact koi. When seeing koi live, sheer well-proportioned massiveness, always a large contributor to impact, is more striking than on a photograph. However, an excellent outline coupled with other top quality appreciation elements all working together still comes across well.

Koi A—Shiro Utsuri

This beautifully put together, elegant Shiro Utsuri has a superb conformation, providing considerable impact in its own right. Snow white skin in combination with coal black sumi, interestingly arranged, is quite stunning. Edges to all pattern elements are neatly finished and the slightly three-dimensional effect seen at the leading edges of sumi markings where underlying sumi appears blue (sashi of sumi) is quite lovely. A really eye-catching and memorable koi.

Koi B—Tancho Showa

Incredible body volume is seen in combination with pure white skin and coal black sumi interestingly arranged across the dorsal region. The sumi pattern over the elegantly round, clear Tancho spot is a classical “menware” or lightening stripe. Nose and shoulder sumi is also fascinating, leading the eye over the lovely stretch of white skin to the leading edge of dorsal sumi. The impression is given that a line could eventually join the two. Edges to all pattern elements are beautifully finished and the few gin-rin scales over white skin subtly enhance its purity. Unfortunately this Tancho Showa appears to have a rather small, triangular head, producing something of a mismatch with the body volume and acting negatively to the overall excellent impression this koi creates.

Koi C—Taisho Sanke

Another large koi with an excellent outline, somehow, even though pattern elements appear to be good quality, this Sanke, sadly, fails to impress. White skin on the body is slightly creamy but clear and shows lovely fukurin. Hi appears solid, especially over the shoulders, but edges could be better and there is a distracting transparent scale to the left of the dorsal. Hi on the head is a bit short and edges to the head

pattern are not sharp. White skin on the head is unfortunately rather stained. Sumi on this koi is memorable because of the large element over the gill plate, but this does not tie in particularly well with the small sumi spots towards the tail, although all appear to be excellent quality.

Koi D—Kin Showa

An interesting study, this Kin Showa, it shows incredibly high quality in the obvious bright and very eye-catching lustre of its skin. It is rare indeed to see such well-developed sumi on a metallic koi coupled with perfect silver white and strong golden-orange hi. The clear white head with small hi and sumi spots is quite charming. In counterpoint to the white head, incredibly strong motoguro (black pectoral fin joints) enhance the impact of other pattern elements on the body. If this koi appeared more massive, it would be unforgettable indeed. Although neat, body volume is perhaps a little lacking.

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

All photographs courtesy Ian Andrews

REMINDER
AKA SUBSCRIPTIONS
are due 1st July

PO Box 68
St Clair NSW 2759



Koi A



Koi B



Koi C



Koi D

Extraordinary koi

Bernie Woollands, ZNA Certified & BKKS Judge

This is the first of a series of articles from about 'extraordinary koi'. More of these in future editions of *AKA Reporter*.

For the purpose of this set of articles I will be concentrating on Extraordinary Koi which I and some other authors have encountered on our travels. Many have been classified as Unique Koi—a common epithet for something out of the ordinary. But this series will concentrate on koi worthy of recognition beyond the koi show where it was entered.

Extraordinary Koi #1

This is a Goshiki. It may not be a type you are familiar with but it's a Goshiki nevertheless. On the European show scene it is referred to as a Kawari Goshiki. In Kate McGill's book she offers the translation of Kawari as "Something Strange".



In my Japanese-English dictionary there are a host of words including eccentric. Both of these translations suit this particular koi in my opinion.

But before I wax lyrical about this particular example I am going to quickly elaborate on the Koromo show class to which this koi belongs.

The Koromo class is split into two halves—the Goshiki and the Goromos. The Goromos are all white skinned with robing (a scale border) confined to the beni patterns. The Goshikis can have three different skin colours (white, grey/blue and black). The robing is not just confined to the pattern. In fact the pattern elements can be completely devoid of it. However, robing must appear on the skin. Goshikis with naked pattern elements are referred to as Modern Goshiki and those that are completely robed as Traditional Goshiki. Therefore the koi in the main photo conforms to the Traditional style.

While this koi has won several 'Unique' awards in its time. It was only unique in the show it was entered. There have been other examples on the Euro show scene.



Picture A



Picture C



Picture B

While this koi may not be what you've come to expect of a Goshiki it still ticks all the boxes that define Goshiki. But what makes it remarkable are a number of other things.

1. It has a metallic sheen that gives it a silky appearance.
2. It has an extremely clean head more akin with Ai Goromo
3. And finally—it is a very unusual colour.

I first saw a koi like this at the German ZNA show (Interkoi) in 2013 (pic A). Its owner at the time was Jeroen van Keulen, the proprietor of Koi Centrum van Keulen. Jeroen had purchased it the year before at Izumiya in Niigata. He later sold the koi in 2014. The first thing that drew my attention was the metallic sheen. It reminded me of another goshiki that had been a crowd favourite in the UK. That one was owned by Bill Oakley and featured at the BKKS National koi shows for many years. But apart from the sheen they had little else in common in terms of appearance. Bill's had the floating ukimi beni and was red. Jeroen's one as you can see is quite different. However, both had quality. I think this koi was awarded the Unique Koi award

at that show. However, there was another example at that show, (pic B) although entirely without the sheen and the quality Jeroen's one displayed. So not unique in the spirit the word is understood... but definitely a koi worthy of merit. That koi was benched in the Kawarimono Class at that show.

I never thought I would see a quality koi like it again but in 2015 I did (pic C); and not only was it an identical variety it was actually better. Like its predecessor it was benched in Kawarimono. This koi remains on the show circuit today and until 2017 it remained benched in Kawarimono, a thing I always disapproved of. Unfortunately I never got to judge this or the previous example at any show; I was always allocated another size. Had I have had that privilege I would have liked to have asserted my judges prerogative and had it re-classified as Koromo. At the 2017 Holland Koi Show the senior judge Toyohiro Hiyashi did just that. Good man!

This koi was purchased by Dirk Snauwaert the proprietor of Elna Koi in Belgium in 2014 and arrived on the European show scene a year later. Both of these koi were purchased from Izumiya in Niigata.

The reason I am so adamant that it should be classed, as Koromo is that it showcases all of the good characteristics of a goshiki and indeed the whole Koromo class. It has perfect robing. In this case all over the body and yet the head stays remarkably clear. The beni on the head is absolutely clean and the stray pieces of errant robing that appear there are solid and clean too. If you can mentally strip away those robes the underlying skin, although a strange (kawari) colour is a consistent greyish colour throughout. The strange coloured beni pattern is well balanced and takes your eye from front to back. The colour elements are homogenous and well finished (sashi & kiwa) and it has this highly polished lustre that has to be seen to be believed.

Sadly, this koi is likely to remain an enigma. Izumiya reported that there were only 5 or 6 examples produced and the oyagoi (parent koi) have been lost. Johan Leurs, who was there when it was purchased, tells me that there were only three examples of this quality and that these two made their way to Europe. The other was believed to have stayed in Japan. Sadly, no photos of that one have appeared in any of the Japanese based magazines so I have no idea how it compared to these two examples. ■

Photos courtesy of Johan Leurs, Rene Gerritzen, Lars Sabrella, Bernie Woollands.

Extraordinary Koi #2



This koi is extraordinary for a very different reason than koi#1. I first became aware of it at the 2017 Euregio Koi Show in Holland. The Euregio Koi Show is run by the hobbyist organisation called Koi Club Nederland also known as KCN.

Towards the end of the judging we were advised that they had a Unique Koi prize and asked us to identify one. Dirk de Witte, the senior judge allowed us to ponder this for a while and make some suggestions before suggesting this koi.

Some judges, including me, didn't see anything particularly unique about it. To my eyes it was just unusual—a subtle but well-defined dark kumonryu that was two distinct shades of charcoal. It was clear its lineage was kumonryu but it lacked the vibrant contrast of the standard black and white.

Dirk then asked us if we'd looked at the benching photo—I hadn't. So I and the rest of the judges went back for a look. The photo was of a doitsu ochiba shigure albeit with a linear-kumonryu style pattern. A few jokes were made about the quality of the photograph including



a suggestion that it had been photo shopped prior to online pre-benching. However, we were assured that that particular photograph had been taken earlier that morning and that it accurately represented the koi at the time. I have to say I was dubious but the photographer, Rene Gerritzen a man I've known for some time, assured me that it did.

After a small discussion we agreed that it was a unique koi. Many of us have worked and/or judged koi shows for many years and we've never witnessed such a change before!

I heard but never had it confirmed that this koi was bred by Yoshikigoi in Poland.

Some months later a Judging Standards Committee (JSC) colleague of mine was doing the benching administration for one of the Shinkokai shows run by the German Shinkokai and the koi appeared there. At that show it had reverted to its ochiba shigure colouration and remained that way throughout the show. ■

KCN Koi Club Nederland

KCN Koi Club Nederland is a hobbyist run club consisting of members from Belgium and Holland. Their show "Euregio" is third longest running of the four shows that occur in Holland. This show in 2017 was their 8th consecutive show. The venue is at Recreatiepark Het Hulsbeek, Oldenzaal, the Netherlands in the North-Eastern part of Holland.

KCN can trace its origins to a gathering of hobbyists at RR Koi, a local dealer in 2007. At this impromptu meeting they decided to set up an Internet site, which they called the Koi Club Nederland. In late July 2009 up they were contacted by the local parks department and asked if they could organise an event. They had little time (6 weeks) and few resources but nevertheless they took up the challenge and the first KCN Show took place in September that year with just 6 vats and a few local dealers.

The following year, but only six months later they organised a bigger affair – 20 vats and some 10 dealers and this launched the KCN on a steady pattern of growth that culminated in their 2017 show of 72 show vats, 550 koi exhibits and 20 odd dealers. ■

Koi Shows in Holland.

The longest running koi show is the Nishikigoi Vereniging Nederland (NVN) Holland Koi Show HKS and it is also the largest. Its 2021 show will be their 28th.

The Koi 2000 Show is next expected although they haven't run one for the last two years. This show ran under the banner of the Shinkokai for several years although that status now appears in doubt.

Fourth is the Mini Holland Koi Show. A smaller affair run by the NVN along the lines of a Young Koi Show. This show travels around the country often at the site of a koi dealer. It is a one-day show.

Finally Koi Show Goes. Goes is a small town in Holland and a small contingent of hobbyists ran a show there in 2017 for the first time. ■

Dropsy in koi

Dropsy in koi is not a disease, but rather the result of some other cause. There are multiple possible reasons; the most common cause of Dropsy in koi fish is from a bacterial infection that has gained access to the kidney and or liver through the blood stream. An alternative method of contracting Dropsy is brought about by a rare fish parasite that attacks the kidney, *Mitraspora cyprini*. Either way, kidney enlargement and loss of function ensues, eventually ending in kidney failure. Fortunately, Dropsy normally affects just one Koi at a time rather than an entire collection.

The *Aeromonas* or *Pseudomonas* bacterium is usually the culprit behind a bloated koi with bacterial dropsy. Parasites penetrate and damage the skin of a fish then the bacterial infection sets in. Pinecone disease or Dropsy is usually the final stage of the bacterial infection. The bacterium attacks the fish's kidney and it stops functioning properly. The victim of Dropsy cannot expel fluids normally so it builds up inside the fish's body. The pressure from the accumulating fluid causes the body to swell and this expansion causes the scales to stick out away from the body resembling a pinecone. The affected fish's head does not swell because of the bone structure, but the eyes may bulge or pop out because the excess fluid has no place to go.

Dropsy is also known as bloater or pinecone disease because of the symptoms exhibited by infected fish. In the advanced stages of Dropsy, Koi may lose the ability to maintain balance in the water because its swim bladder also experiences increased pressure from the accumulation of fluids within the body cavity.

The condition of Dropsy in koi is very distressing to the koi owner. Not only does it look to be very painful for the fish, the fact is that most cases will be fatal. Because, by the time external symptoms are recognized, irreversible damage to the kidney has already occurred and the organ has been injured beyond repair or treatment.

In mild cases of the koi illness, Dropsy can simply be due to fluid retention. In this instance the use of salt can promote the release of the accumulated fluid and the Koi may be saved. Identification of such fluid buildup must be realized prior to the onset of any bacterial infection if the fish has a chance of surviving. Unless Dropsy is caught in the very early stages, a cure is almost impossible.



Is Koi Dropsy contagious?

No, Dropsy in koi is not contagious; however the circumstances that caused it usually are contagious. The most common cause of Dropsy is damage caused by parasites, followed by bacterial infection, and culmination in Dropsy.

What are koi Dropsy symptoms?

If suffering with Dropsy koi fish will exhibit the following symptoms:

- Swelling of the body (fluid retention)
- Protruding or bulging eyes
- Raised scales (pine cone appearance)
- Loss of equilibrium/balance (swim bladder affected)
- Isolation or staying in areas of high oxygen concentration. ■

RUSSIE KOI WA INTRODUCES



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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
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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
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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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