

October – November 2020

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# AKA Reporter





# AUSTRALIAN KOI FARM

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# AKA Reporter



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# President's Report



At least COVID-19 seems to be receding here in Sydney and it's great to see the spring weather has begun to warm and our koi are starting to get more active. Be aware that often our filters are not operating at full capacity with the bio still recovering

in efficiency levels post-winter. Watch your nitrite level, these often get high and cause your koi to flash (often koi keepers then start adding unnecessary treatments BEFORE checking their pond parameters). So check nitrites.

A lot of us are starting to prepare our breeding mops and spawning tanks. Many of our members may have spare fry to give away in the coming weeks. So even if you can't do a full spawn yourself, why not prepare a small tank and try and grow some fry...this is a wonderful way to learn more about the hobby and you may even grow a future champion!

Congratulations to all those who exhibited at the recent Australian Virtual Koi Show (for koi in 7 Varieties and two sizes 30 cm to 40 cm and 40 cm to 50 cm). The event proved to be highly successful with 270 koi entered by 48 exhibitors. Full results elsewhere in this issue. Special thanks to Mike Harvey and Harry Beckx in South Africa who took the time to judge these koi.

Kate and I recently travelled up to Coffs Harbour to catch up with our AKA Mid-Northern



Region Members. We gave a small presentation on kohaku (pictures above and left), which seemed to be well received. The branch is doing very well and it looks like there will be a change at the helm with current President John Irwin moving shortly to the Greater Newcastle region. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John for all his efforts in founding this koi club and wish him great success on his future endeavors.

Kate and I would like to formally thank the members and guests of the Mid Northern Club for attending the meeting, especially as some had driven for over two hours just to say hello. We are very grateful to everyone.

Unless there is a further negative recurrence of COVID-19, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting in November at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre.

With the breeding season nearly on us and to our members making their preparations for this year, I wish all of you every success and I am looking forward to seeing your progeny in our show tubs in the near future.

*Yours in koi  
Ian Andrews  
President AKA*



# AKA News and Events

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## November Meeting

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November Meeting is on Wednesday 4 November and is the Annual General Meeting night and will be held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. Election of Officer Bearers for the next twelve months will be held. ■

## New members

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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

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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. ■

## Koi food

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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 to be left out ready for pick up, having nil face-to-face contact. ■



## The AKA is seeking a new meeting venue

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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. ■

# AKA News and Events

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## Koi Net Magazine

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*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](http://www.koinet.co.uk) where there is a simple form to subscribe.



## *AKA auction dates and KSA auction dates*

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All auctions for both clubs are cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns.



Home-made spawning mops and brushes all cleaned and ready for this year's breeding season.

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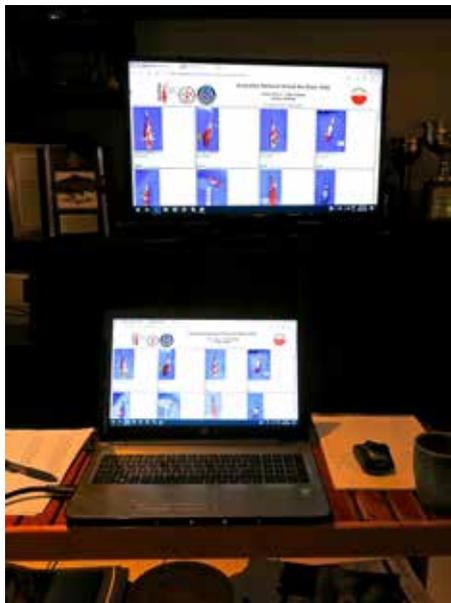
# Australian Virtual Koi Show 2020

The sad cancellation of this year's Sydney Koi Show due to COVID-19 resulted in a rethink on different ways to keep our club members actively involved in the hobby.

Following extensive groundwork put in by Graham Fameli, plus encouragement from Ian Andrews, all three Australian koi clubs fielded another first: a combined virtual koi show judged purely on photographs. Not an ideal way to judge koi—but in times of a global pandemic at least we could have some fun and create a new approach to hosting a koi show.

It was decided to use seven varieties (kohaku, sanke, showa, utsurimono, metallic, non-metallic and kinginrin) and two size classes (300 mm – 399 mm and 400 – 500 mm), the thinking being we wanted to encourage first time exhibitors as well as the more experienced, and hoped that these two size classes would be common amongst most members. Although, as it turned out, some regular koi show exhibitors were unfortunately still without any koi they could show.

It was decided to get each club's Show



Shona Macskasy was in charge of building and managing the show entry portal.

There are 7 varieties.			
Variety	Size 3	Size 4	Total
Kohaku	26	17	43
Sanke	19	24	43
Showa	22	21	43
Utsurimono	14	6	20
Metallic	22	20	42
Non metallic (all others)	25	24	49
Kinginrin	14	16	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>270</b>

Chairmen to issue a Registration Number to each exhibitor, to be placed on the bottom of the vat used to photograph their koi entries. This was because we were concerned someone might be tempted to include a koi from overseas and obtain an unfair advantage. Although highly unlikely it was felt it was a good safeguard.

We gave over a month for entries to roll in and after a rather slow start, the organisers were incredibly pleased to see that we had 48 exhibitors who had entered 270 koi (see the table above). The koi entered were fairly evenly dispersed across the entire sizes and classes with utsuri being slightly fewer than others. The enthusiastic support for the show was so good the Clubs decided to increase the prize monies to include additionally a \$20 for 2nd and \$10 for 3rd, on top of the \$200 each for GC A and GC B; \$100 for the 7 Best in Variety and \$50 for each of the 1st placed koi. In total there was \$2,200 in prize money. Also pleasing was that 27 out of the 48 exhibitors won a prize and particularly many who had never before entered koi in one of our shows. We hope this will encourage them to come along to our respective national shows, when we can once again hold them.

Special thanks go to WA's Shona Macskasy, for all her efforts in the online show entry portal and paperwork wrangling, and to our esteemed ZNA Certified Judges Mike Harvey and Harry Beckx for kindly doing the difficult task of judging all the koi. ■



**Grand Champion A**  
1st - Sai Thia  
Size 3, Showa (35 cm)  
Breeder:

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**Grand Champion B**  
1st - Alan Peck  
Size 3, Utsurimono (35 cm)  
Breeder:

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**SAKKS Friendship Award**  
1st - Jimmy Tran  
Size 4, Non metallic (49.5 cm)  
Breeder:

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**Variety Champion: Kohaku**  
Alan Peck  
Size 4, Kohaku (46 cm)  
Breeder:

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Variety Champion: Sanke  
TK Hing  
Size 4, Sanke (43 cm)  
Breeder:



Variety Champion: Showa  
Brett Howlett  
Size 3, Showa (36 cm)  
Breeder: Phong Ta & B Howlett



Variety Champion: Utsurimono  
John Ling  
Size 3, Utsurimono (39.5 cm)  
Breeder: John Ling



Variety Champion: Metallic  
Ian & Kate Andrews  
Size 4, Metallic (44 cm)  
Breeder: Ralf Boehner



Variety Champion: Non metallic (all others)  
Jimmy Tran  
Size 4, Non metallic (49.5 cm)  
Breeder:



Variety Champion: Kinginrin  
Alan Peck  
Size 3, Kinginrin (35 cm)  
Breeder:



Our judges Harry Beckx and Mike Harvey.



**1st - Ping Chang**  
Size 4, Kohaku (45 cm)  
Breeder: Allan Bennett

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**2nd - Dave Brown**  
Size 4, Kohaku (47 cm)  
Breeder: Dave Brown

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**3rd - Peter Colgan**  
Size 4, Kohaku (42 cm)  
Breeder:

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**1st - Eddy & Helen Visser**  
Size 4, Sanke (45 cm)  
Breeder:

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**2nd - Sai Thia**  
Size 4, Sanke (50 cm)  
Breeder:

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**3rd - Heinz Zimmermann**  
Size 4, Sanke (49 cm)  
Breeder:

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**Note:** That the new entry portal software devised by Shona now has the added Breeder information line. Exhibitors can now add the name of the actual person who has bred this particular koi. Something that is very important to know if we are to continue to improve our koi lines here in Australia.

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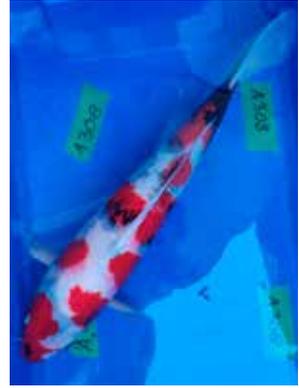
**1st - Allan Bennett**  
Size 4, Showa (48 cm)  
Breeder: Allan Bennett

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**2nd - Alex Lowe**  
Size 4, Showa (49 cm)  
Breeder: Alex Lowe

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**3rd - Alan Peck**  
Size 4, Showa (46 cm)  
Breeder:

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**1st - Mick Steele**  
Size 4, Utsurimono (42 cm)  
Breeder:

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**2nd - Janson Soo**  
Size 4, Utsurimono (44 cm)  
Breeder: Allan Bennett

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**3rd - Heinz Zimmermann**  
Size 4, Utsurimono (41 cm)  
Breeder:

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**1st - Edison Jap**  
**Size 4, Metallic (50 cm)**  
**Breeder: Edison Jap**

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**2nd - Ron De Waal**  
**Size 4, Metallic (49 cm)**  
**Breeder: De Waal**

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**3rd - Heinz Zimmermann**  
**Size 4, Metallic (49 cm)**  
**Breeder:**

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**1st - Sam Grech**  
**Size 4, Non metallic (42 cm)**  
**Breeder:**

---



**2nd - Heinz Zimmermann**  
**Size 4, Non metallic (49 cm)**  
**Breeder:**

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**3rd - Ian & Kate Andrews**  
**Size 4, Non metallic (42 cm)**  
**Breeder: Lindberg Andrews**

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**1st - Ian & Kate Andrews**  
Size 4, Kinginrin (47 cm)  
Breeder: Terry McNeil

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**2nd - Barry Ambler**  
Size 4, Kinginrin (45 cm)  
Breeder: Barry Ambler

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**3rd - Jared Conti**  
Size 4, Kinginrin (41 cm)  
Breeder: Jared Conti

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**1st - Graham Farneli**  
Size 3, Kohaku (33 cm)  
Breeder: Minnamurra koi

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**2nd - Dick Power**  
Size 3, Kohaku (31 cm)  
Breeder: Dick Power

---



**3rd - Allan Bennett**  
Size 3, Kohaku (36 cm)  
Breeder:

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**1st - Dave Brown**  
Size 3, Sanke (33 cm)  
Breeder: Dave Brown

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**2nd - Allan Bennett**  
Size 3, Sanke (37 cm)  
Breeder:

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**3rd - Janson Soo**  
Size 3, Sanke (33 cm)  
Breeder: Allan Bennett

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**1st - Allan Bennett**  
Size 3, Showa (38 cm)  
Breeder:

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**2nd - Paul Middleton**  
Size 3, Showa (32 cm)  
Breeder: Paul Middleton

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**3rd - Alex Lowe**  
Size 3, Showa (39 cm)  
Breeder: Alex Lowe

---



**1st - Graham Faneli**  
Size 3, Utsurimono (38 cm)  
Breeder: Minnamurra koi

---



**2nd - Sam Grech**  
Size 3, Utsurimono (31 cm)  
Breeder:

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**3rd - Joe & Rita Borg**  
Size 3, Utsurimono (39 cm)  
Breeder: Joe Borg

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**1st - Bradley Bradley**  
Size 3, Metallic (36 cm)  
Breeder: Bradley Bradley

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**2nd - Des Howlett**  
Size 3, Metallic (36 cm)  
Breeder:

---



**3rd - Dick Power**  
Size 3, Metallic (31.5 cm)  
Breeder: Dick Power

---



1st - Ian & Kate Andrews  
Size 3, Non metallic (39 cm)  
Breeder: Lindberg Andrews

---



2nd - Bradley Bradley  
Size 3, Non metallic (39 cm)  
Breeder: Bradley Bradley

---



3rd - Des Howlett  
Size 3, Non metallic (35 cm)  
Breeder:

---



1st - Heinz Zimmermann  
Size 3, Kinginrin (37 cm)  
Breeder:

---



2nd - Jared Conti  
Size 3, Kinginrin (34 cm)  
Breeder: Jared Conti

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3rd - Edison Jap  
Size 3, Kinginrin (30 cm)  
Breeder: Edison Jap

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# Extraordinary koi

*Bernie Woollands, ZNA Certified & BKKS Judge*

This is the third of a series of articles from about 'extraordinary koi'.

## Koi 5: Kuro Kado Goshiki

My name is Jeroen Dregmans and I am working for Ornafish in Japan, based in Ojiya, Niigata. Prior to taking this job I was a hobbyist in Holland, where I worked on the board of the Holland Chapter (NVN) in several functions as well as working on the Holland Koi Show for many years. In my time at the NVN I was one of the first batch of trainees in their Judges Training Programme.

In my job I get to see countless thousands of koi on a regular basis. Often I see an unusual batch of koi raised by a breeder that when distributed around the world often win Unique Koi awards due to their scarcity. However, it is very rare indeed to see a koi that is considered unique in Niigata, but the koi I am about to show is one of those rarities.

I came across this koi at the premises of Aoki Koi Farm in March 2017. The Koi was just in a tank with regular Nisai, and probably I had seen it over 10 times before it took my eye. Of course I bowled the Koi and checked if it was a male or female. As Motoyoshi san does not breed normal Gosanke and is specialised in Doitsu and different Goshiki this must be a full red Goshiki. With his current Oyagoi I couldn't imagine that it was something else. The breeder, Motoyoshi Aoki told me that it occurred naturally amongst the fry of normal Goshiki. Koikichi as I am I asked my customers if they were interested in the Koi, at that time they didn't come further then saying that they only could imagine that this Koi would grow out to a Benigoi with many Shimi. I didn't agree and asked Motoyoshi san if she could stay over the summer season for myself. At first he looked at me like he saw his own water burning, then he asked if I was ok.... It happens more that people don't take me serious, so I wasn't offended by him at this time. Here the story ends for now.

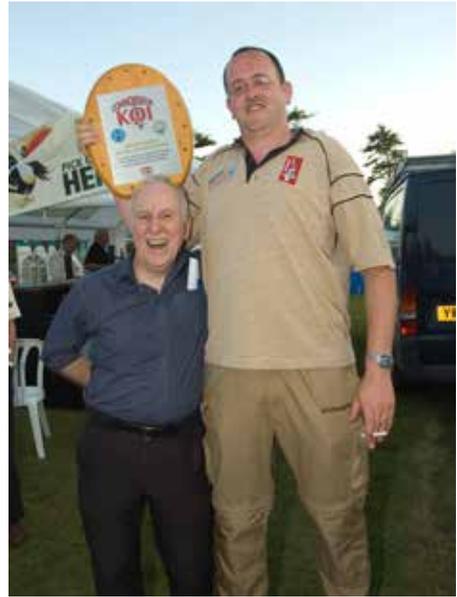
It must be early October last year that I walked in at Aoki after one of their first harvests, nothing unusual as I like to visit the farm during



summer time as you always can have a good time there and learn from two generations in one time. The father of Motoyoshi san, Haruo san is still involved and you can find him every day on the farm. Immediately Motoyoshi san asked me to follow him to one of his high quality ponds and pointed out a certain red and black Koi. As the aeration was still on I couldn't get a clear view on the Koi so I put it off. The only thing I



My Kuro Kado Goshiki when I first saw her.



Jeroen Dregmans towers over David Brown Editor of *Koi Net* digital magazine.



Here she is again twelve months later, alongside Aoki Koi Farm's superb kuro goshiki.

could do at that moment was telling Motoyoshi san all the bad words that I knew in Japanese. He kept the Koi and put it in one of his mudponds during the summer. This time it was not normal grade anymore but she was scaled up to the Tategoi pond. Of course we bowled her again and I got confirmed that the development was as I expected 6 months earlier. Motoyoshi san told me that he and his father bowled the Koi again in March after I left with my customers, it was indeed a female and the Beni was from head to tail and the Sumi only came on the edges of the scales, at that moment not over the whole koi, but for sure over more than 70%. It was worth taking the risk and they did so. On that day in October I added her to my collection.

It is indeed an extraordinary koi and truly a one-off at the moment. As such it doesn't have a variety name, but we have called it a Kado Kuro Goshiki which describes its characteristics in Japanese. The skin of the koi is a deep beni without any flaws. Normally Benigoji can come from the breeding of 4 varieties: Kohaku, Sanke, Showa or Benigoji. This is why many breeders have Benigoji and also the reason why you see a lot of them with partly white fins. As far as I know in Niigata there are only two breeders who

use Benigoï x Benigoï as parents and that are Marusei and Maruhiro Koi Farm, all the others breeders get them from Gosanke breedings. Goshiki breeders normally don't keep the Benigoï during summer time selections as the risk of having a black spot or irregularities is too high. Aoki did and afterwards I am happy with that.

On each of the scales there is a black robe sitting perfectly on the edge of which the vast majority are fully developed. The remaining scales show a sumi edge too but some are still faint. The Kuro Kado part of her name comes from the Black edges on each scale. Kuro means Black and Kado means Edge in Japanese. (as we know it from a Kado Ginrin Asagi for example)

At the moment the Kuro Kado Goshiki is in one of Aoki Koi Farms mudponds here in Niigata and I look forward to see her again in the Autumn.

## Koi number 6. A lesson in Doitsu and Hikari

When I finished the article about Extraordinary Koi #4 I thought I'd come to the end of the line. But, then I saw this one at the 2018 Belgian Koi Show and felt the need to write about it.

Before I explain why I felt this koi worthy of an article let me first give out the details. This koi is a Beni Kikokuryu bred by Hidetoshi Ikarashi of the Ikarashi Ozumi Yorijo about 30mins drive out of Ojiya. Its lineage is an established line of Beni Kikokuryu breeding true for several generations. It was purchased by Belgian dealer Kim's Koi.

At the show it was awarded Baby Champion. The BKS show like many others in Europe tends to produce mainly gosanke champions but that isn't what makes this koi extraordinary.

A Beni Kikokuryu is a metallic version of a Beni Kumonryu – a doitsu black and white koi with an additional red pattern. Pattern-wise it should demonstrate a red kohaku pattern and a black kumonryu pattern. This example not only does that it also demonstrates the best of both metallic and doitsu characteristics.

So let me break it down into its component parts i.e. kumonryu, doitsu and metallic, and discuss the attributes it has.

### Kumonryu

A lateral sumi pattern running down the flanks on a white skin. Just look at this fish and imagine it without any metallic lustre.



Kim Cloet selecting showa with 'Macho' Katoaka.



Beni Kikokuryu



**Hidetoshi Ikarashi of Ikarashi Ozumi Yorijo Koi Farm loves his kikokuryu.**

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The quality of this sumi is superb, dense with crisp edges. Compare it with the sumi in the pectoral fins and on the face – it is consistent and homogenous. The beni pattern on the body is the same. At the moment there is a slight imperfection with the beni on the head due to it being an immature fish. The skull plates have yet to form.

### **Doitsu**

Doitsu fish lack scales and therefore their pattern edges (kiwa and sashi) should be sharply defined. This koi exudes this – just look at the edges along the flanks and particularly on the dorsal ridge where beni meets sumi including the left hand side where one overlaps the other. There are no ragged or undefined edges.

### **Metallic.**

When judging metallic koi one of the key components is the lustre, it, along with the body-line are the two highly prized assets. To check consistency we are advised to look at the head, dorsal ridge and pectoral fins. This koi's lustre

excels in all departments.

Judges are taught to mentally strip away the metallic lustre and examine the koi underneath. A metallic koi should still show the underlying variety characteristics exactly. So for this koi we should see a Beni Kumonryu. This koi shows one in an exceptional manner, but consider how many you see that don't. This variety 'Beni Kikokuryu' are often seen with a skin the colour of graphite instead of white, with sumi that is very inconsistent and more charcoal grey than black, plus various shades of sumi and beni on the same koi.

### **Long fins?**

One of the downsides from judges training is that you automatically recognise any faults alongside the assessing merits. Whilst being pleased to find all the aforementioned excellent elements of this koi I was drawn to the fins. The pectoral fins in particular as at the moment. They do appear to be a little long as well as being a bit wavy on the leading edge. I therefore examined all the other fins to ascertain whether there were any

long-finned traits. There weren't - all other fins have normal proportions. I therefore concluded that there was nothing to demerit on the long-fin front, but those wavy edges do prevent it from being 100% perfect. I do wonder whether this fish is male but at this size that has no bearing on its bodyline or appearance.

## **Benching**

When any koi is entered into a show it is benched in a Show Class with other varieties that generally share some common characteristics. The exception of this is the Kawarimono class which is generally used as a 'catch-all' for varieties that do not conform to the other Show Classes.

## **Japan**

This koi is benched in Kawarimono at both ZNA and Shinkokai shows. I was told that this is the norm for any new variety until their characteristics have been established and can be replicated with regularity. If Ikarashi is line-breeding this variety and producing examples of this quality maybe a re-classification is on the way. The downside of being in Kawarimono is that it competes with so many other patterned varieties (e.g. Ochiba Shigure etc) where there are no common characteristics, not even metallic skins.

## **Europe**

Here the koi is benched as Doitsu B (non gosanke) with the focus being on it's doitsu-ness which at least all the other varieties share. However, it is also competes with non metallic as well as non-patterned varieties.

## **UK**

Here it is benched in the Hikari Moyo class; A class for all patterned, non-metallic koi where characteristics such as lustre are common and shared by all. In this class the Kujaku is probably the most popular but a Beni Kikokuryu of this quality should be able to compete on equal terms.

## **Australia**

In the Sydney Koi Show this koi would be entered in Metallic Doitsu Class where it would be evenly able to compete on all its characteristics.

I shall finish this article by restating something I mentioned in the first of this series. I am not

talking about Unique koi. This variety is anything but. In fact it is quite common at European shows - I recall quite recently (Interkoi 2018) seeing one vat with 5 or 6 specimens in it. I am talking about 'remarkable' koi - I haven't seen such a clearly defined example of this koi since seeing my first at a show in Japan circa 2000 or 2001. That koi, if my memory serves me well, did not have the degree of lustre that this koi demonstrates. So despite seeing many examples these days this individual example stood out from the pack for all its excellent attributes - a truly extraordinary koi - in my humble opinion.

I came across this koi at the 2107 All Japan. It was bred by Omosako. There was no other koi remotely like it at the show and I haven't seen another in the flesh since.

As you can imagine photos of it soon began appearing over the koi media. Some christened it a Kanoko Utsuri, a name I disagreed with then and still do.

Kanoko translates to dappled and is a term that has been used for many years to describe a fawn-like effect of beni. It can be seen on several varieties these days sometimes in a pure form. On other occasions it is used to describe the effect when a beni dan starts to disintegrate. In the latter case it can be viewed as a demerit. In its pure form it is just another colour effect.

In recent years I've seen good examples of this on Yuki Asagi where it gives a very distinct impact. However, none of these examples look anything like the additional colour and effect on this koi, hence my objection to it being described as kanoko.

For a start it is quite clearly yellow - not red at all. Furthermore it is situated uniformly on the edge of the scale whereas kanoko can be anywhere and rarely uniform.

I doubt I would have been concerned about the misnomer if it wasn't for the fact that this koi is extremely extraordinary for its perfection as well as its uniqueness. The yellow colouration sits perfectly on the edge of each and every visible white scale. Any other koi with a colour on the edge of the scale would earn the description 'Kado'. Any other koi with yellow on it would earn the description 'Ki' and finally - three colour koi earn the name 'sanshoko', and when the sumi wraps around the body the term Showa is applied. By that quick summary of Japanese terms I would refer to this koi as a Ki-Kado Showa. But make no mistake I am not trying to name it as a variety. I am just describing what

I see using my very limited knowledge of the Japanese language couched in a bit of existing koi terminology. I don't see the point in creating a distinct variety name for what is so far just a single example.

By the way, the Utsurimono class and by deduction utsuri is used for two colour koi which again doesn't make any sense when this one displays three colours.

However, I am going to leave the naming debate there as it detracts from the beauty of this koi. I know my photo isn't the best, but even the surface ripples and the effects the overhead lights have on the water can't hide its quality. The sumi is dense, lustrous and in most cases developed, there are a few areas where it is underlying and waiting to develop fully. The shiro is very uniform in clarity across the body. There is no staining on the head but the colour plate is still a little bit translucent. Like some of the sumi it is still 'work in progress'. Finally - this yellow kado effect. It is uniform, every non sumi scale is the same giving it a sort of a distinct vignette over the rest of the body. It is my hope that this effect stays as it is.

It has been suggested to me that the yellow might continue to develop and one day

consolidate. I hope not. Were that to happen completely it would just become a ki-utsuri. If the head remained white and the rest went yellow it would be different and possibly even deserve a name of its own. But somehow I don't see that being extraordinary.

To further my case I have included some examples of kanako koi varieties.

Personally I would like to see this type of koi developed in numbers. However small those numbers may be I think it will deserve a unique variety name of its own - something better than a kanako utsuri. They would be a valid addition to the list of varieties, far better than many on the so called 'new varieties' that appear every now and again that are minor variations of an existing variety. This one with its yellow edged scalation really is something new and I would certainly like to own one. ■

*Photos courtesy of Johan Leurs.*

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# Another Saturday morning lockdown

by *Stephen and Anthony Grey.*

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Sitting in the garden again at last enjoying a little bit of sunshine having a well-earned cuppa, Anthony and I got talking about flukes.

We've been watching and reading over the last few months many threads regarding fluke issues and we were trying to remember the last time we really had a bad case of the little blighters and it's got to be a fair few years now! Don't get me wrong we have had a couple of bad cases, but through trial and error like everything we do through we now have a system and regime to keep them at bay that works for us...as I said works for us!

Hopefully, this may help some of our new members, but it would be nice for some of our experienced members to add their regimes and protocols. We may collectively together come up with a good method to keep the little blighters at bay, which will help everyone.

As said, we are really lucky as we don't really have any bother with flukes, in fact we did a general scrape last week and we were struggling to get any mucus from them.

So, controversially or not, in my opinion over the last year or so I've noticed the common denominator(s) why people have issues with flukes is mainly overstocking, overcrowded ponds! Not always the case but that's what I've observed. Also lack of preventive regime to combat the blighters especially if a pond has had a bad case, as they will be back! A system that is under constant pressure such as heavy organic load and continuous introduction of koi. Reducing or eliminating some of those common denominators mentioned and introducing a preventive maintenance is what has worked for us.

We reduced our stocking levels, we have one source for our koi, upgraded our filtration system, we improved the performance of water flow to the filtration, introduced more oxygen to the filtration, upgraded and amended our trickling in and out process, etc. Along with these changes and through trial and error to have a good preventative maintenance we have dramatically reduced a parasitic issue in our ponds. Or we are just extremely lucky as it could be just that!

So, with flukes you do not wait for them to come knocking on the door, better of having a good preventative regime to combat them

especially if they have been a persistent problem for you. For us, if we have had persistent flukes and feel we have finally got rid of them or they are at a very low manageable level we still keep the flubendazole in the system for a period of time, which we feel keeps weakening the blighters. We give our koi a rest after the initial dosing and then treat again, maybe even popping a half dose in every month to keep a trace in the system, as I said to keep weakening the little blighters.

As an automatic precaution preventative maintenance we always treat in the spring when ambient temps are on the up (we don't bother scraping) and controversially the saying 'you should not treat your pond without scraping first' as where flukes are concerned you cannot wait for them to build up. It's sort of like us humans we take a flu jab as a preventative hoping we won't get flu, I know I will this year as it nearly killed me last December! So, we do the same for our koi to help them! Same for 'Archie' our labradoodle we don't wait for him to get worms or fleas, he gets wormed and flea treatment as a preventative treatment so for us koi are no different especially where flukes are concerned!

In the spring we PP (this is the only time we do this); some may use Chloramine T. These both initially lower the mucus layer to allow the treatment to attack and kill the flukes and also lower any organic load in the system. In a bad case of heavily mucused koi this is a must to reduce the protective shield the flukes may have, I'm also a firm believer that flukes will be inside the gut trail in bad cases.

After lowering the mucus layer, we apply our treatment sometimes the same day, certainly no later than the next morning, treat a week later to hit them again, then hit them again a week later... keeping it in the system to keep weakening them those that have survived. Let the koi rest then hit them again, but also when higher temps are reached to weaken them again or kill any gill fluke eggs if mature gill flukes have been evident in the past... then treat again in the autumn to keep weakening them and clean the koi for over the lower winter temp period. As mentioned, this is the protocol that has worked for us for many years.

Please note...I mentioned flubendazole which is what we use, we get this under prescription from our vet and they fully understand what we use it for.

We only mix it with boiling water but make sure it is well dissolved over a period before slowly adding it to the pond all around. First main treatment in the spring, and last one in the autumn; we turn the drum and showers off for a few hours to let the full dose soak in.

It's mind boggling the products on the market and it seems confusing what works and how, as some are finding one product works for one but not the other, but it's preventative maintenance for us.

Hopefully this thread may help us to find a common denominator from us all, to help combat the persistent fluke issues. ■

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## The Meaning of 'Ake' in koi

Koi ages as are commonly understood are as follows...

- Tosai - first year (1)
- Nisai - second year (2)
- Sansai - third year (3)

'Tosai' is an age that is unique to koi. This is because from the moment they are born they are referred to in this way. Because breeding season commences generally from May (in Japan) onwards, these new fry are called 'Tosai'. As such, we need to differentiate these koi from older koi. Because of this we use the word 'Ake' combined with the next season's age that the older koi will become.

So, we say 'Ake-Nisai' which means 'going through to Nisai next autumn'.

'Ake-Sansai' means 'going to Sansai next autumn' and so on...

We hope you can understand such koi terminology easily.

Ake in this usage, is shortened from the term "toshi ake", which means New Year.

Tosai born in 2020 are considered Ake Nisai as of January 1st 2021. In the summer of 2021 while they are growing in mud ponds, they are referred to as "Aki Agari Nisai", which translates to "Fall Harvest 2 year old". After harvest in the fall of 2021 they will be Nisai.

These Nisai will be considered Ake Sansai effective January 1st 2022. ■

## AKA—Mid Northern Region

### September Meeting

With COVID-19 previously precluding 'normal' meetings it was with significant emphasis that we conducted a successful September meeting.

What made it even more emphatic was that we had the pleasure of hosting our parent Sydney club President and his gracious wife for the first time at our relatively infant club. A great honour and our thanks are extended of course.

We met at a member's farm (thanks Chris) where we had a hugely informative and advanced discussion and presentation from both Kate and Ian, where we had some 10 live Kohaku and Showa to be assessed and commented on (thanks Peter and Greg), enjoyed a great BBQ lunch and we sold some \$500 in stock (fish food) and equipment.

Simply a great day with marvellous input from two internationally accredited koi judges who so readily fitted in and cooperate with us. We remain in awe of your incredible knowledge Kate.

We can even promise a bigger audience next time once COVID-19 has removed the maximums we had to abide by; and yes, we will get over that pond envy issue Ian.

To all my club members who made this event work so well my sincere thanks.

### AGM – November meeting

COVID-19 to one side but with member restrictions in place, we will return to our standard format to conduct our AGM on Sunday November 15 at 10 am at the Coffs Harbour Botanical Gardens.

Notice has been sent to all members and we may have to address an overflow issue—so no quorum problems at least.

The departure of our existing Chairman (John Irwin) as he moves to resettle at Lake Munmorah will leave a sizable gap for us to fill, but we must and will.

There will be a number of 'business' matters to discuss that may have an impact on our Sydney parent club connection, nothing contentious but matters that nevertheless need conclusion—such as insurance cover, stock sourcing and supply and membership data capture. ■

*The Chairman - AKA Mid-Northern Region, Coffs Harbour.*

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