

# AKA Reporter



Sydney Koi Show 2019	
Bin 35	
 Fish ID # 112110 Bin # 39 Size: 22cm Variety: Utsurumono Class: Size 2 Owners: Joe and Rita Borg	 Fish ID # 112131 Bin # 39 Size: 26cm Variety: Showa Sanchoku Class: Size 2 Owners: Joe and Rita Borg
 Fish ID # 112134 Bin # 39 Size: 22cm Variety: Showa Class: Size 2 Owners: Joe and Rita Borg	 Fish ID # 112150 Bin # 39 Size: 60cm Variety: Hatake Doru Class: Size 6 Owners: Joe and Rita Borg
 Fish ID # 112170 Bin # 39 Size: 50cm Variety: Tancho Sanchoku Class: Size 3 Owners: Joe and Rita Borg	 Fish ID # 112179 Bin # 39 Size: 56cm Variety: Hakuji Class: Size 5 Owners: Joe and Rita Borg
 Fish ID # 112203 Bin # 39 Size: 39cm Variety: Tancho Class: Size 1	





# AUSTRALIAN KOI FARM

**83 JERSEY ROAD, BRINGELLY NSW 2556**

**TEL: (02) 4774-8180**

**FAX: (02) 4774-8767**

**EMAIL: [auskoi@bigpond.com](mailto:auskoi@bigpond.com)**

**WEBSITE: [www.auskoi.com](http://www.auskoi.com)**

**A.K.F. Fisheries Lic. No.**

**F87-1005**

**A.B.N. 95 742 918 665**

**BREEDING AND SELLING PURE JAPANESE KOI  
AND POND & BIO FILTRATION CONSTRUCTION  
FOR OVER 25 YEARS**

- ◆ Show Quality & Pond Quality Koi
- ◆ Pond Consultancy
- ◆ Pond Restoration
- ◆ Low Maintenance Mechanical & Bio Filters To Suit Any Pond
- ◆ Custom Made Filters
- ◆ Pre Fabricated Fiberglass Ponds
- ◆ Accredited Seller Of Oase Filters & Pumps
- ◆ Koi Food - High Protein Spirulina Enhanced
- ◆ Wholesale & Retail Fish and Food
- ◆ Air Pumps & Accessories
- ◆ Hoses & Fittings
- ◆ Filter Media - Japanese Mats & Bioballs
- ◆ Large Range Of Pumps
- ◆ U.V's To Suit Any Pond Size
- ◆ Medications & Other Pond Additives
- ◆ Open to The Public 7 Days



# AKA Reporter



## April–May 2021

Administrative members and contact details	2
President's Report	3
Meeting Notices and Agendas, News, New Members, Auction Dates	4–5
The Sydney Koi Show 2021	6
Koi Classifications for the Sydney Koi Show <i>by Kate McGill-Andrews</i>	14
Sydney Koi Show FAQs <i>by Ian Andrews</i>	8
Why koi shows <i>by Kate McGill-Andrews</i>	9
AKA Auction Notice 10 April 2021	16
Another Saturday full lockdown thread <i>by Stephen and Anthony Grey</i>	17
Koi Critique <i>by Kate McGill-Andrews</i>	22
AKA Mid Northern Region <i>by Graham Gribble</i>	23
Sydney Koi Show T-shirts	24
Buy, Swap and Sell	25
Clearance items up for grabs	26
Membership form	27

### Thank you to our advertisers...

Australian Koi Farm	Inside front cover
Aussie Koi WA	28
The Pond Man	Back cover

For all advertising enquiries please contact Gordon Kilborn 02 9153 9012 or 0429 664 916

AKA Reporter is published by the  
Australian Koi Association Inc.  
ABN 91 669 147 584

Advertising enquiries:  
Gordon Kilborn 02 9153 9012 or 0429 664 916  
Newsletter production [www.petergibson.com.au](http://www.petergibson.com.au)

All correspondence to:  
The Secretary, Australian Koi Association,  
17 Westmore Drive, West Pennant Hills NSW 2125

### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Australian Koi Association or its management. Nor does the Association accept responsibility for the claims made by advertisers or members in respect of any service or items offered for sale herein.



Scan this tag with your phone  
[www.akakoi.com.au](http://www.akakoi.com.au)

© 2017 Australian Koi Association Inc.

# The Australian Koi Association Inc.

---

Patron: Professor Simon Chapman AO PhD FASSA

## Bankstown Branch

President	Ian Andrews	0418 255 897
Vice President	Paul Miglionico	0415 834 529
Secretary	Adam Holden	0419 165 782
Treasurer	Judi Rea	0418 290 084
Public Officer	John Rhodes	0415 134 652

## Committee Members

Show Coordinator	Paul Miglionico	(02) 9862 0472 / 0415 834 529
Show Support Group	Graham and Lee Fameli	0400 615 977
	Joe and Rita Borg	(02) 9832 9676
	Shane Murray	0400 936 267
	John Zammit	0419 019 125
	David Durrant	0414 834 499
	Mark Robinson	0427 236 385
Membership Officer	Heinz Zimmermann	0428 478 594, zimmo55@yahoo.com.au
Supply Officers	North West Sydney—Anthony Waring	0418 617 627
	South West Sydney—Gordon Kilborn	0429 664 916
	Eastern Suburbs—John Rhodes	0415 034 652
	Western Suburbs—Phil and Judy Rea	0418 996 226
Auction Coordinator	Heinz Zimmermann	0428 478 594
Auction Assistant	Joe Borg	0416 545 882
Membership Liaison	Lee Nguyen	0435 219 885
	Ron & Max Farrugia	0403 029 533
Webmaster & Facebook	Graham Fameli	0400 615 977

## AKA Reporter

Editor	Kate McGill-Andrews	(02) 9871 2483
Photography	John Ling	0411 156 648
Advertising/Distribution	Gordon Kilborn	(02) 9153 9012 / 0429 664 916

## Committee Support Panel

Publicity	Alf Mizzi	0417 248 052
Librarian	Heinz Zimmermann	0428 478 594
Catering	Vacant	
Social Secretary	Dorothy Miglionico	0424 133 698
Sizing and Assets	John Rhodes	(02) 9661 4735
Table Show Registrars	Paul & Dorothy Miglionico	0424 133 698

## AKA Mid Northern Region

Chairman	Gavan Gribble	0430 930 936
Dep. Chair	Peter Hemmings	02 6567 7576
Secretary	Robyn Brierley	0438 441 914
Treasurer	Garry Curtis	0419 850 056
Event Coordinator	Peter Colgan	0407 182 709
Membership Coordinator	Robyn Brierley	0438 441 914

Website [www.akakoi.com.au](http://www.akakoi.com.au) Facebook [www.facebook.com/AustralianKoiAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/AustralianKoiAssociation)

## Life Members

Ethel Allen\*; Ian Andrews; Jack Cohen\*; Mary Cohen; Max Farrugia; Ron Farrugia; Barbara and Bryce Hough; Arthur Johnston; Gordon Kilborn; Yvonne Louis; Betty and George Ludbrook; Kate McGill-Andrews; Dorothy Miglionico; Paul Miglionico; Ken Newton; Dave Pogson\*; John Rhodes; Arthur Robinson; Alan Walter\*; Barbara Walter\*; Harry Watson\*; Robert Wood\*; Heinz Zimmermann.  
\*Deceased

## All correspondence

Australian Koi Association, 17 Westmore Drive, West Pennant Hills NSW 2125

# President's Report



The Sydney Koi Show 2021 is just around the corner and it's shaping up to be our best yet! This year's event will be held on Sunday 30th May at Sydney International Equestrian Centre at Horsley Park. Please let our Show Chairman Paul Miglionico know if you may be available

to assist, as we need the support of volunteers to help setting it up on the Saturday 29th May and on the Sunday with the running of the show. Setup is from 8.30 am Saturday.

I urge all members and friends to attend this great event, so why not bring the children or grandchildren and support your fellow members who are exhibiting their koi on the day...but please remember our social distancing rules!

Our Sydney Koi Show Prize Presentation night will be held at Smithfield RSL on Monday 31st May. Arrival 6.45–7.00 pm with dinner served at 7.45 pm. The price of the Special Presentation Dinner will be approximately \$25 per head including drinks (normal price is \$60 a head, but subsidised by AKA and KSA). Bookings are essential please; contact Bryce Hough 9755 2850 or 0408 882 025 to book a seat.

This year due to COVID-19 we shall be using our local ZNA Judges. Our out-of-state ZNA Judge is good friend Mr Allan Bennett from WA, providing there are no hotel quarantine restrictions in place. To ensure there are adequate koi entries, our local ZNA Judges will be allowed to enter their koi as well. However Judges won't be allowed to judge their own koi and will hand any judging sheet that has one of their entered koi across to the other Judges, ensuring full compliance with this special rule. The same applies to Best In Varieties, GC A, GC B, Jumbo and Reserve.

A special reminder that our Annual Dave Pogson Breeders Trophy has been moved to our June meeting night. Each entry must be of 10 koi bred or raised from last year's spawning. Entries can be all one variety or a mixture of different varieties, so members can now bring in as many lots of 10 koi as they can manage. 2019 was almost a record for the number of entries so let's see it improve from that. Just remember, bring a suitable container to hold the

10 koi, plus air line and air stone.

Lastly, the good news is our auctions can finally resume! I have been working with Richard Power, acting on behalf of KSA, and we both made the decision to move to Fairfield City Showground as Auburn Council made things very difficult wanting DAs and restrictions of 50 people. At this stage both clubs can only afford to book the Saturdays for our auctions and although the costs at Fairfield are more than double we have the added benefit of having security and medical staff provided as part of the fees. KSA held their first auction there on March 13th and it was an outstanding success, being the best auction they have ever held. Let's hope the same applies to our first, scheduled for Saturday 10th April.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Show. Remember to enter your koi, including size 1!

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter break.

*Yours in koi*  
*Ian Andrews*  
*President, AKA* ■



**A stunning Doitsu Kujaku. It would enter our Sydney Show in the Metallic Doitsu Class.**



# AKA News and Events

---

## Meetings of the AKA

---

We have successfully held two monthly meetings at our new venue, the Georges Hall Community Centre. Future meetings shall take place there on the second Monday of each month with the exception of December where no meeting will take place. Details of all our meetings are also now on AKA's Facebook page.

Remember all members and visitors must register, preferably using the QR code via the Service NSW app, as AKA is now a registered COVID Safety Plan business.

## Meeting of the AKA, Monday 12 April 2021

---

The next meeting of the AKA will be on Monday 12 April 2021 at the Georges Hall Community Centre 188 Birdwood Rd, Georges Hall, 7.30 pm.

1. Welcome to members and guests
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of minutes of previous monthly general meeting.
4. Raffle
5. Reports
6. General Business
7. Raffle Draw ■

## 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). We welcome these recent new members:

RICHARD HWANG  
EDISON JAP  
ANDREW LY  
MARTIN MA  
WUTTHICHAJ RAKKIT

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

Have you tried AKA's [Sinking Koi Pellets](#) yet? Seems that many of our more experienced koi keepers have given this food a big tick and are getting great results feeding it to their koi. It's best to feed one lot of floating and next feed give them the sinking. Give it a try and I'm sure you will see the improvements in your koi. ■

## Sydney Koi Show 2021

Online Entry Portal

Opens for entries 1st April and closes  
midnight 16th May 2021

[www.akakoi.com.au](http://www.akakoi.com.au)

## KSA Auction Dates

Saturday 13th March  
Saturday 1st May  
Saturday 3rd July  
Saturday 4th September  
Saturday 23rd October  
Saturday 4th December

Current Covid-19 restrictions as administered by Auburn Council means that all these dates are tentative and will be confirmed or cancelled at a date closer to the auction date.

New venue for KSA auctions is Fairfield City Showground (bottom of markets),  
Smithfield Road, Prairiewood

# AKA News and Events

## AKA has a new meeting venue

As previously stated in past newsletters our Committee has been searching for a new home for the AKA and we may have found a place where everyone will be happy.

Starting this year we will be meeting at the Georges Hall Community Centre 188 Birdwood Rd, Georges Hall NSW 2198.

This hall offers everything we could ask for: air-conditioning, level access and a great kitchen and it's affordable. We are going to give it a six-month trial to see how it works out. Please come along...your participation is paramount to the running of AKA.

At this stage it is only available on the second Monday of each month so we will have to make that minor compromise but I'm sure it will all be fine once we get used to the change. ■



## AKA Auction Dates



Held at Fairfield City Showground (bottom of markets) 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

**Saturday 10th April 2021**  
**Saturday 5th June 2021**  
**Saturday 7th August 2021**  
**Saturday 25th September 2021**  
**Saturday 13th November 2021**

**Current Covid-19 restrictions as administered by NSW Government means that all these dates are tentative and will be confirmed or cancelled at a date closer to the auction date.**

### IMPORTANT CHANGE TO AKA AUCTION VENUE

**New venue for AKA auctions is Fairfield City Showground (bottom of markets) Smithfield Road, Prairiewood.**

**Entrance to auction: Main entrance is drive through to Gate 13, keep driving until you see entrance to the car park for the auction area on the right.**

**Alternatively the back entrance is the entrance closest to the golf course. Follow around until you see the entrance to the car park and our area on your left.**

# The Sydney Koi Show

30 May  
2021

9 am – 3 pm

Sydney International  
Equestrian Centre  
Saxony Road  
Horsley Park NSW

Just off the M7

Celebrating over 40 years  
of Koi shows in Sydney

Japanese Koi  
Koi equipment  
Plants, bonsai, cactus, orchids  
Rabbits, birds and reptiles

FREE ADMISSION



Sponsored by



Hosted by  
Australian Koi Association  
Koi Society of Australia





# Koi Classification Categories for the Sydney Koi Show 2021

---

*Kate McGill-Andrews*

---

The Sydney Koi Show, jointly hosted by the Koi Society of Australia (KSA) and the Australian Koi Association (AKA) is scheduled for the weekend of the 30th May this year. We really hope that this event, taking place at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, will attract a great deal of attention and hopefully encourage large numbers of koi hobbyists to show their fish. It really isn't difficult and there are always other club members willing to help novices!

Elements of both AKA and KSA shows are incorporated into this event, including a category for Size 1 (100–199 mm) koi, always part of the KSA Show, plus vendors seen previously (plants, bonsai, birds and animals) have all been invited to attend. Classification categories however will follow mainly AKA's previous pattern, introducing some changes for those hobbyists previously only showing under KSA rules.

## Classification guide

---

### **KOHAKU**

Kohaku

### **SANKE**

Sanke, Aka Sanke

### **SHOWA**

Showa, Hi Showa, Kindai Showa

### **UTSURIMONO**

Shiro Utsuri, Hi Utsuri, Ki Utsuri

### **BEKKO**

Shiro Bekko, Aka Bekko, Ki Bekko

### **ASAGI**

Asagi, Asagi with kado gin (around the edges of scales only)

### **SHUSUI**

Shusui, Hi Shusui, Hana Shusui, Ki Shusui

### **KOROMO**

Koromo, Ai Goromo, Sumi Goromo, Budo Goromo, Koromo Sanke, Koromo Showa, Goshiki, Goshiki Sanke, Goshiki Showa

### **KAWARIMONO A**

Hajiro, Hageshiro, Yotsujiro, Suminagashi, Matsukawabake, Ochiba Shigure, Kage Showa, Kage Utsuri, Kanoko, Yuki Asagi

### **KAWARIMONO B**

Karasugoi, Kigoi, Benigoi, Chagoi, Soragoi, Midorigoi, Matsuba, Karashigoi

### **HIKARI MUJI (OGON)**

Lemon Ogon, Yamabuki Ogon, Nezu Ogon, Platinum Ogon, Orange Ogon, Cream Ogon, Mukashi Ogon & all Kinginrin Hikari Muji, Gin Matsuba, Kin Matsuba

### **HIKARI MOYO**

Hariwake, Platinum Kohaku, Yamatonishiki, Kujaku, Shochikubai (Metallic Koromo), Ginga  
\*\* (Note: Doitsu versions of Hikari moyo are classified with Metallic Doitsu)

### **HIKARI UTSURI**

Kin Showa, Gin Showa, Gin Shiro, Kin Ki Utsuri

### **TANCHO**

Tancho Kohaku, Tancho Sanke, Tancho Showa, Tancho Goshiki, all Ginrin Tancho in these varieties and all Doitsu Tancho in these varieties

### **KINGINRIN A**

Kinginrin Kohaku, Kinginrin Sanke, Kinginrin Showa, Ginrin Shiro Utsuri

### **KINGINRIN B**

Kinrin Hi Utsuri, Kinrin Ki Utsuri & all the Kinginrin koi except Kinginrin A, Hikarimuji and Tancho

### **METALLIC DOITSU**

Doitsu Ogon, Platinum Doitsu, Mizuho Ogon, Kujaku Doitsu, Doitsu Kin Showa, Kikusui, Ginsui, Kinsui, Kikokuryu, Kin Kikokuryu, Doitsu Gin & Kin Matsuba

## NON METALLIC DOITSU

Doitsu Kohaku, Doitsu Sanke, Doitsu Showa, Doitsu Utsuri, Doitsu Bekko, Kosui, Kumonryu, Beni Kumonryu, Doitsu Matsuba and all Doitsu Kawarimono

### Major differences for KSA exhibitors are:

- (a) the Classes Metallic Doitsu and Non-metallic Doitsu
- (b) Kin-Gin-Rin Ogon are included with Hikari Muji
- (c) Ki Kokuryu and Kin Ki Kokuryu are included with Metallic Doitsu.

Don't worry...even if you are not sure what variety is your koi should be classified with we will correct any entry errors. ■

# Sydney Koi Show— FAQs

Sydney Koi Show—Sunday 30 May 2021  
Sydney International Equestrian Centre  
Saxony Rd, Horsley Park NSW 2175 (Just off the M7)

The Sydney Koi Show is the combined annual show of the Australian Koi Association (AKA) and the Koi Society of Australia (KSA). Expected to attract over 500 of Australia's best koi, this signature event has attracted considerable interest across the Australian and international hobby.

For those interested in showing their koi, we have put together a summary of the most Frequently Asked Questions.

## ENTRY FEES

\$5 per fish up to a maximum of \$50.  
Free entry for first time exhibitors (first time exhibitors are those that have not previously entered into an annual show of the AKA or KSA).

## HOW TO ENTER

All entries are completed online. Please visit [www.akakoi.com.au](http://www.akakoi.com.au) for links to the online entry page.

Entries open 1st April and close midnight Sunday 16th May 2021

If you need assistance with your entries, please contact Ian Andrews or email [ia222@hotmail.com](mailto:ia222@hotmail.com).

## WHAT TIME CAN YOU TAKE KOI TO THE SHOW?

You can take your koi to show from 6.30 am on the Sunday 30 May 2021. All entries must be in the allocated show bins by 8.00 am.

## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Breakfast and lunch on Show day is supplied to all Exhibitors

## SHOW SET UP AND PULL DOWN

The show set up is on Saturday 29th May 2021, from 8:30 am.

Volunteers put the Sydney Koi Show together. Those entering koi and other members of the AKA and KSA are asked to assist with setting up the show on the Saturday. Assistance with pulling down the show on Sunday is also requested.

## AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Sunday Awards Presentation has moved to Monday night, 31st May 2021.

Venue: Smithfield RSL Cnr Cumberland Hwy and Neville St, Smithfield NSW 2164

Time: 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm  
Cost: \$25 per person.  
Buffet and drinks.

All welcome. If you are coming, please contact Dick Power 0437 012 463. For more information on the Sydney Koi Show contact Ian Andrews 0418 255 897. ■

# Why koi shows?



**(1) Impressive layout for the first Sydney Koi Show.**

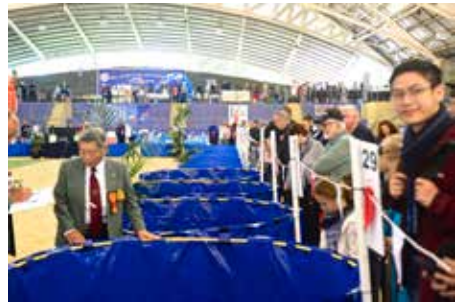
---

*Kate McGill-Andrews*

---

Show time again! Remember, pre COVID-19, how, as soon as the Christmas and New Year festivities were over, we began to anticipate the Sydney Koi Show or previously, the Australian Koi Association (AKA) and the Koi Society of Australia (KSA) shows? Remember getting together to discuss ways to make improvements, correct issues discovered the previous year, moving forward all the time. Remember all the hard work, yes, but remember also the satisfaction of a job well done when all the show set up is completed and the result exceeds everyone's expectations, as did the very first Sydney Koi Show in 2019 (photos 1 and 2). January 2020 saw the beginning of discussions about the show last year; all sorts of improvements were already on the table when COVID-19 struck with such devastating consequences. The loss of our show, meetings and auctions were the very least of the effects felt by all of Australia, not to mention the world at large, but it has really brought home just how important koi shows are to our hobby and both Ian and I thought it would be interesting to highlight everything koi shows can accomplish for us, especially after last year, with only a couple of virtual photographic shows saving us from a complete desert of a show calendar, world-wide.

Perhaps the most significant reason koi shows are important—something very much



**(2) Judging in progress at the first Sydney Koi Show.**

---



**(3) Agus and Karl enjoy a chance to get together.**

---



**(4) An international panel of judges enjoying a laugh at the Holland Show in 2004.**

---



**(5) A chance to ask questions.**

---

highlighted by the isolation the COVID-19 pandemic has brought—is the fact that they bring people together (photos 3, 4, 5) in various capacities, working to organise and set up a show, looking after visitors on the day, the judges, the results, the koi (photo 6) and afterwards organising and participating in the wrap up—koi to go home, bins to empty and clean, venue to strip down. Even just attending a show, you probably meet people you haven't seen in perhaps years, especially if you attend an international show. Always old friends to greet, new ones to make, koi really are wonderful ice-breakers when it comes to getting people together! Once together, attendees at a show generally have a lot of fun too—check out the photographs (photos 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)!

Talking to people at a show can be a wonderful learning experience; an opportunity to absorb more about the hobby in general, the “must have” items for a pond build if you are thinking about a first, a renovation or a second, third or even a fourth pond! A chance to improve your



**(6) Now, where does this one go?**

---



**(7) Koi show fun in Holland.**

---

koi appreciation skills, learn a few new koi names, admire and discuss an unusual koi, perhaps at the show for the very first time, talk to the judges (photos 13, 14), discover why a particular koi has become a champion. As well, improve your knowledge of koi health and water maintenance. Koi people are really special—always happy to help in any way they can. It is amazing what you can discover, talking to people at koi shows.

A vital part of the learning experience is definitely showing koi, perhaps not appreciated by all hobbyists. I know Ian and I often think we have a special koi at home in the pond, worthy of an award, only to find that when we





(8) Koi shows bring out the crazy in some of us.



(9) Fun for the kids.



(10) A Japanese tradition for the winner of GC.



(11) Entertainment at the Asia Cup dinner was certainly different.



(12) Enjoying the after show dinner with friends.



(13) Explaining a winner's points at the San Diego show.





(14) Education—part of the show environment.



(15) The same conditions for every bin.



(16) However many bins are involved. A sea of bins at the Asia Cup Show.



(17) Just part of the massive venue for an Asia Cup.



(18) Thousands visit the Holland Show.

get to the show, we are totally outclassed! Nothing like having “rose-tinted glasses”, when it comes to viewing your own koi. Shows provide the comparator; what looks a million dollars in the home pond does not always measure up to the opposition and it is important to discover why. Without shows, this opportunity is very much missing, because you need to see competing koi in the same environment to fully appreciate their respective merit. Historically, before KHV



(19) Everyone enjoys a win.

(like COVID for koi), everyone's koi at a show were displayed together in size and variety—the so-called Japanese-style show. This was the best for judges and visitors alike, simple to see the outstanding amongst a group when they were all



(20) It's fun to win.



(21) The Holland Show is renowned for its vendors.



(22) Ideas for decorations.



(23) Another new idea to improve the look of our showground.



(24) Ideas for trophies are often seen at other shows.



(25) Ideas for T-shirts.





**(26)** We learned about judging in koi bags from other shows.



**(28)** Stunning quality Kohaku at the Shinkokai show.

together. I still remember the massive bins at the early Shinkokai shows each with around fifty huge Kohaku, Sanke, Showa, (for example) in each. It was quite a sight. The current English-style shows (so-called because in the UK, Japanese-style shows were never thought safe and therefore banned), do not allow quite the same close comparisons



**(27)** Putting a new idea into practice.



**(29)** How it all began in the UK.



**(30)** Nothing like a bit of ingenuity in creating a koi bin.

between koi, but at least the koi are in the same place, in the same colour bins and under the same light (photos 15, 16, 17). You can certainly learn a lot, walking around the show bins, comparing the winners with the also-rans and of course, talking to people (photo 18)!

Another important facet of showing koi is our competitiveness. I think at heart, everyone (if they admitted it) likes to win (photo 19)! Showing your koi gives you that opportunity. Yes, you



**(31) Another early koi bin.**

---

might (and often do) fail, but at least if you have a go there is always the chance that your koi on the day outshines all the competition! It happens, it has happened to us, quite unexpectedly when our Koromo Sanke pulled Grand Champion at a KSA show some years ago. We never expected it, she was an unusual koi (generally not known to take GC) and the most we hoped for was a variety champion—previously even this award had eluded us. Winning is definitely fun (photo 20)!

Returning to the learning experience, if you have the opportunity to attend different shows, especially international shows, it is amazing what you find there, for example, at the Holland Show the number of vendors selling absolutely everything for the garden and pond is beyond belief, probably more than anywhere else in the world—certainly that we have visited (photo 21). Other shows provide ideas to translate into improvements for your own show (photos 22, 23, 24, 25), your pond, your filter, the health of your koi, even your garden as a whole. For example, the idea of using plastic bags to show small koi came from directly observing the advantages they confer (photo 26). You can easily get close to the koi to observe and judge them, plus the bags can be moved close together for easier comparison and judging (photo 27). Many of our new awards have stemmed from seeing how beautiful they were at other venues. It is also valuable to learn different ways of classifying koi at other shows, again quite a few of our recent classification changes have been implemented after observing the changes already made successfully at other shows. For example, the introduction of GC-B for non-Go-Sanke koi—so valuable to recognise a special koi in a variety other than Kohaku, Sanke and Showa.

The learning experience of viewing some real



**(32) Modern bins. A very well organised show in South Africa.**

---

world-beating koi—especially if you can travel to Japan—is perhaps the cherry on top as a reason for visiting other shows (photo 28)!

Koi shows world-wide have been with us for a very long time, well over fifty years in Japan and not that far behind in Australia and the UK. Early photographs show the ingenuity of hobbyists in finding suitable containers to show a koi in (photos 29, 30, 31). I still remember the very first koi show I attended, held in the grounds of Harewood House in Yorkshire. The koi were displayed in black plastic dustbins! I am not sure where or when it was discovered that koi look their best displayed against a pale blue background—it must have happened somewhere through the years, probably in Japan, but now we would not consider using anything else and show bins really have developed to make the most comfortable and safe temporary ponds for our koi (photo 32). Some shows even use a small filter at each bin, as well as the obligatory air lines. Unfortunately, these often make the koi very difficult to view and most certainly to photograph.

The koi show really has to be an intrinsic if not essential part of our hobby and we are travelling full steam ahead towards the Sydney Koi Show 2021. Come hell or high water, vendors or no vendors, visitors or none, we are putting on the show this year! Already the first show committee meeting has taken place with everyone full of enthusiasm and ideas to make the show something special, whatever the circumstances we end up with at the end of May. So, all you hobbyists, take note and start looking at your koi with a view to giving them a day out at your show! Yes, your show—it is what you make it in the end and that means we need your koi to make a really great day even more special! We look forward to seeing you all on the day. ■

# AKA AUCTION

10.00 am Saturday 10th April 2021

**NEW VENUE!**

Fairfield City Showground, Smithfield Road PRAIREWOOD NSW

**Bookings: Contact Heinz Zimmerman 0428 478 594**





# Another Saturday (full) lockdown thread

by *Stephen and Anthony Grey.*

Sitting in the garden (with our waterproofs on!) having a well-earned cuppa Anthony and I got discussing the recent posts regarding pH and KH and cast our minds back to the early years when we nearly had a pH crash back in 2003. Since then, it's a subject we've always been interested in, more so these last few years...

So, which one is more important KH or pH? Answers on a postcard please!!

It can be a mind boggling subject and took us a few years to grasp the fundamentals regarding what was going on with our water in relation to our bio filter–nitrification cycle, CO<sub>2</sub> levels, TDS, GH and of course pH and KH. Information was limited back then in 2003 as there was not much in textbooks based on the detail that we all know now. Having kept and bred Malawi Cichlids successfully for many years 30+ years ago, I already had an understanding of pH and the basics of the nitrification cycle but taking on a koi pond proved a whole different challenge. Though to be fair there are a lot more hobbyists that now have a good understanding of

the subject especially the last 6, 7 years or so as we need to understand the chemistry regarding keeping water and growing our koi, more so than when we first started.

Personally, I think every koi keeper should have a basic understanding regarding pH, KH and the nitrification cycle for the welfare of their koi. This is where the likes of BKKs, koi clubs (koi shows) and dare I say it forums are a great help for newbies coming into the hobby.

As I've always said on our threads we always trial and error whatever we have done over the years, so our experiences are our own when we write threads like this, but whether it's feeding regimes, trickling in, purification, turnover rates, pond design, lights and tinkering with pH and KH, we've always tried to understand what is going on and put forward the best practices we have learnt for our systems.

For us, having a very low alkalinity KH and pH source water, we had to try and understand what was going on with our pond water. Back then having a Nexus filtration (K1) as our main biological (we now have fluidised K1 chamber/s) with bakki showers containing BHM) we did



**Anthony and Stephen Grey's stunning ponds and gardens. Anthony is one of the gardeners that looks after the magnificent gardens of Durham Cathedral.**

not really understand or know about the likes of carbonic acid affecting KH and what was happening with the biofilter.

So, as we started to learn it was more about stabilisation in the first few years controlling the pH swing, we did well at shows but struggled at times regarding koi being a little veiny. To try and help keep a stable pH (not knowing much about KH) we would hang bags of oyster shells in the K1 side of the nexus. After so long these would just disintegrate as they were being dissolved! We also put clay in the pond to try and help the skin, which we don't do now. Eventually fitting a bakki shower in 2007 helped balance the alkalinity a little, by aiding gassing off CO<sub>2</sub>, etc. We are firm believers that fluidised K1 and BH media complement each other! Well it works for us!

Also, rainwater most times was off the acidic scale, so counter measures were put in place by building a pergola to stabilize the effect the rain was having, fluctuating our pH value.

Our pH would also swinging higher

throughout the day due to photosynthesis, and as carbonates were being consumed also affecting our KH, we started to understand more about KH realising this was happening. As it gets dark, dissolved oxygen (DO) levels drop and the photosynthesis stops and all plants (the algae on our pond walls) in our koi pond consume oxygen (respiration). So, in heavily stocked ponds (which we learnt to reduce as the years went on) CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations can become high as a result of this respiration. The free CO<sub>2</sub> released during this respiration reacts with our water and dissolves, producing carbonic acid, lowering our pH value and KH during the night and early morning. As we started to understand more about KH in relation to the nitrification cycle, counter measures were by introducing peccos.

To control the swing, we would also add bicarbonate of soda (bicarb) mechanically by hand most evenings to combat the above. With little knowledge or experience at first regarding how much to dose, this was incurring too much of a swing and keeping our pH a little higher



**The Filter House with the new drums and all the water testing gear.**



**Top: Hanna Instruments bench Aquaculture Photometer showing KH reading. Bottom: pH reading.**

than we actually wanted based on the source water. As time went by, we experimented with the daily amount of bicarb to add until we could hold the pH as best as we could, without too much of a swing, as we should not introduce our koi to a maximum swing more than 0.5 points within a day—ideally no more than 0.2. This swing can be stressful to our koi as the internal acid-base balance of our koi changes as the pH of the water changes. Also the toxicity of the ammonia in the blood stream changes as pH changes effecting vital organs—constant swings possibly cause parasitic issues!

As said, after testing at certain intervals during the day we realised we were putting too much bicarb in, thus keeping our pH too high based on our source water—this creates a bigger swing!

We also noticed that in the winter months when we were not feeding that we did not have to buffer so much. In fact our pH was a little higher, which meant the KH was not being



**Bluelab Guardian plumbed in-line dosing system.**

eaten up by carbonic acid. But when we started to cover our pond in the winter, we started to notice a difference again due to CO<sub>2</sub> (pond not breathing) as mentioned in one of our previous Saturday threads...so that was another learning curve! A counter measure was to build a polycarbonate framed cover to create more air space.

In those early years we eventually managed to get a handle on things even though we were sailing close to the wind at times. Our source water KH was then approximately 17mg/L to 25mg/L, pH approximately 7.1 to 7.2, TDS approximately 100. In fact, over the years there has been a slight change to where our approximate readings are now KH about 13mg/L, pH 6.90, and TDS about 80 from the tap.

This subject depends on your source water as there are so many variables in KH, GH making TDS and what your pH may be. It also depends on possibly where you want to be in the hobby. For 'newbies' who are still learning and understand this subject, stability is the main reference to keep everything stable and safe, but obviously this is governed by your source water. Of course, in certain parts of the country the source alkalinity is very high so therefore easier to maintain that stability, but as more of us are



**HI-83203 Aquaculture Bench Photometer used as a double check to the in-line system.**

learning about koi pond water chemistry and growing koi there is a desire to change the source water normally by other means such as RO. If your source water alkalinity is low for stability and safety margins I would recommend for newbies to keep, if possible, their pH around 7.4 with a KH value in the region of 4°KH (72 mg/L), then from there if desired the KH and pH can be reduced once you are confident to do so. The main requirement is to keep everything stable. (Alkalinity KH is measured in mg/L or degrees °KH. One degree KH = 17.8 mg/L).

We now keep our pH at 7:00 and KH around 13mg/L based on our source water, as our source water dictates this. To help us (as discussed in another Saturday thread) about 5 years ago we installed a pH controller and dosing pump using an industrial probe. The dosing pump is wired into the pH controller supplied from a 15 L bucket that contains the sodium bicarbonate solution going into one of our bio chambers. So, this effectively is taking out the mechanical guessing game (us). This is all automated based on our set variable point to maintain a stable pH of 7.00. By keeping our pH at 7.00 means we have very little swing which makes a big difference to the koi's skin. Having an effective trickling-in system backed up by a very good purification system (again a past Saturday thread) this buffers the alkalinity and tops up the carbonates for our KH to assist the nitrification cycle. Because we use our source water readings to dedicate our ponds pH and KH, it reduces the need for constant dosing of sodium bicarbonate, reducing fluctuations. This is our counter measure for over-dosing.



**Hanna System pH spot on to the in-line system.**

For about the first 5 to 10 years, and doing OK on the show scene with our koi averaging size 4 (55 cm), we noticed they never really grew or developed into the next size, which is partly down to genetics, but we started to put it down to our water not being exactly right. So about seven years ago we started to change direction based on what we had previously learnt and put this experience into best practice. Starting by reducing the number of koi in our pond, revamping our pond to aid directional flow, etc, fitting drum and upgrading our bio significantly (bio/bakki chamber). We also upgraded our water purification and changed our water trickling-in regime. Then we basically started again with our koi. Our main pond is just over 5000 g and we currently only have 7 koi in there. Since we understand to run our pH at 7.00, maintaining this value with no more than a climb variation of 0.2 value, and along with a good trickling-in/out and purification regime to top up the carbonates, has made a huge difference in our koi's growth rates and their overall health, such as little parasite issues.

Based on our feeding regime last year and feeding heavily at the back end of the summer and into the autumn, our biofilter/s performed extremely well, with no ammonia  $\text{NH}_3$  readings, indicating the ammonia oxidizing bacteria are present and performing their task in removing the ammonia that the fish are excreting and converting it and producing nitrite  $\text{NO}_2$ . No  $\text{NO}_2$  readings means the nitrite-to-nitrate bacterial conversion is being produced by bacteria which oxidise nitrite into nitrate  $\text{NO}_3$ . Having a very small  $\text{NO}_3$  reading means our biofilters (K1 chambers x 2 and bakki showers) are very





**Thermo Scientific Meter used to measure Total Dissolved Solids (TDS).**

healthy. Running our pond at a very stable pH value of 7.00 and managing the carbonates for our KH, which are around 13mg/L, assists the nitrification cycle and complements our bio filters...though we keep a very close eye on this when feeding heavily.

As well as our changes and upgrades mentioned above by maintaining a stable pH of 7.00 and managing a low KH we've noticed a difference in the koi's skin and lustre. We used to use clay, but we haven't for many years now; there is no need to. All our koi now average size 7 (75 cm to 85 cm) and we have very few issues with parasites—fingers crossed!

One of the good points about running with a pH of 7.00 is ammonia is less toxic at this low level, as our koi are always excreting ammonia. A danger point is that heavy metals such as copper, zinc and aluminium are more toxic in low alkalinity water. This is one reason why we have upgraded our purification system. On the downside, being blessed with good water, our source water has a high chlorine level of 0.45mg/L, but with good purification management and regime we can eliminate this.

The answer to my question at the top of the thread: which one is more important KH or pH? For us they both complement each other, pH for the koi, KH for the alkalinity of the pond bio converter...that is the way we look at it!

So, like everything this has been a huge learning curve for us over the years and as always still learning. Happy days! ■

*Acknowledgments:*

*Koi Organisation International.*

*Syd Michell.*

*Michael Snaden, with Anthony Grey.*

# ZNA Membership Renewal

Due 1st April 2021. \$100\* for 12 months (Includes 12 monthly magazines)

Payment to:

Judi Rea

Australian Koi Association

23 Dakota Place, Raby NSW 2566.

Tel 0418 290 084

EFT payments to Australian Koi Association

BSB 332-072, Account 0100 359 44

(Add your name to EFT details)





# Koi Critique—Tancho Showa

*Kate McGill-Andrews*

## Tancho Showa (Tahn' ch-oh Show' wah)

Tancho koi are easy to classify in that red (hi) appears only on the head. In Tancho class, only Tancho equivalents of the “big three” koi varieties (Kohaku, Sanke & Showa), are usually included for show purposes, although other varieties, for example, Goshiki (blue or black vignette over red and white patterns), may also produce a Tancho variant. Tancho koi are revered in Japan because a red circle on a white ground is the national emblem. An ideal Tancho koi has a large round head hi, which does not cover eyes, shoulders or nose, but otherwise uses as much available forehead space as possible.

The Tancho koi featured this month is an eye-catching adult Tancho Showa showing a well-developed figure for an adult (size 5) koi, giving a powerful impression. The incredibly dense, coal-black, superbly finished black (sumi) markings on the clear white ground can only be adequately described as spectacular. Look at the wonderfully sharp trailing edges (kiwa) to all pattern elements, so difficult to achieve for sumi. White skin has that wonderful blue-white sheen against sumi only, enhanced by blue toned sashi at the leading edges of sumi markings. This effect is achieved where deep sumi is overlaid by translucent white skin.

Although the Tancho marking is clearly defined with very homogeneous colour, it is not completely round. However, given the other excellent features this champion koi demonstrates, including very attractive sumi patterning, an oval Tancho marking is a minor demerit indeed. ■



# Sydney Koi Show 2021

Sunday May 30th

Sydney International Equestrian Centre



# AKA Mid Northern Region



An early am set up shot, GG, Ien Tan, Chris Archer, Zoe Tan, Robyn Brierley, and Rolli who came down from Tweed Heads to help (all members). Rolli (Rolf) cooked like crazy, Robyn devised a streamlined paper napkin, bread, and onion routine while the two teenagers were fabulous as front of house staff.

## Coffs Harbour BUNNINGS BBQ Sunday March 14

It is important in this preamble to the bottom line (\$) to note the role that our members played and to thank them for what was an outstanding effort. It was for me a very significant moment in our club's progression.

Bunnings was easy to access and cooperative albeit initially demanding, prescriptive but not unreasonably so.

Rain and lack of foot traffic were always the enemy and the rain (anti-rain that is) dances worked, sure it was hot and humid but that seemed to bring customers to Bunnings and consequently us. Foot traffic is critical.

Would I do this again? Probably, but I think I would need a pretty strong motive.

Risks are high as there is a very real chance of failure across quite a few factors—such as start up time (tradie capture in very early morning versus no trade at all), day of the week conducted, customer foot traffic, weather and our ability to offer product value and service (read friendly staffing levels).

Safe working conditions and covid restrictions are of course concerns.

Pre-event structuring requires a lot of fiddly work and is time consuming.

Coordination is also demanding, getting feet on the ground shift staff, judging the numbers (bread, onions, sausages, drinks) and just getting the 'ship in the bottle' as it were is quite a challenge.

Because of our management of the event, our clean up and hand back to Bunnings (plus the fact that neither Bunnings nor ourselves had a single complaint throughout the day), Bunnings advised they are extremely happy with us and are prepared to offer us multiple events throughout the year should we wish to participate.

So, costs of approximately \$580 and sales of \$1,590 for a net return of \$1000 (all rounded).

That is a significant return and one I guess (on a pro rata basis) that Sydney too would be happy with.

Once again—my thanks to all who contributed—well done! ■

*Gavan Gribble—Chairman*

# Sydney Koi Show T-shirts



We hope all exhibitors at the Sydney Koi Show on 30 May will be wearing their Sydney Koi Show T-shirts from the previous show or will order a brand new one! To order, contact GORDON KILBORN on 0429 664 916. Orders must be in by 18 April and delivery will be at the Sydney Koi Show.





## Buy, swap and sell

Buy, swap and sell notices can be placed free by members.  
Please call Ian Andrews on 0418 255 897 or email [ia222@hotmail.com](mailto:ia222@hotmail.com) for more information.

### For sale

- 1 x 5 ft glass aquarium with stand
- 1 x 2.4 metre round pond
- 1 x 1.2 metre round pond
- 2 x 1000 litre oval Reln tanks
- 1 x 1000 IBC water tank
- 2 x 10000 IBC tanks used as filters, free
- 8 x round ex-auction bins, free

Contact Ken 02 9521 1777



The Australian Koi Association does not accept responsibility for the quality of any items or any transactions advertised under Buy, Swap and Sell.



# Clearance items up for grabs

If you are looking at building or extending your koi set-up here are many items up for grabs as one long-term AKA Member is in the process of moving house and wants to clear the decks. Grab yourself a bargain. Items include:

- 3 settlement chambers (complete with brushes and baffles)
- heaps of new pipe fittings
- barrel filters complete with bio-balls
- valves, stop cocks, pressure pipe in all diameters
- IBC filter chamber
- pumps (some still in the box)
- two glass aquariums
- two UV light fittings that will just need a new lamp
- lots of new onion bags ready to create your own biological set-up.

Contact Arthur on 0405 453 226. ■





# Membership application/renewal

All details are kept confidential and will only be used by the AKA for the purpose of keeping in touch with you.

## Tick appropriate box:

New member application for Sydney branch.....

New member application for Mid-Northern branch.....

Membership renewal (due 1 July every year).....

## Fees:

Membership (includes your family) ..... \$30.....

Junior (under 16) ..... \$15.....

Total ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Your details:

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Second name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of spouse or partner \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

*I apply for membership and agree to abide by the regulations of the Australian Koi Association*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a copy of this form to:

AKA Membership Officer  
Heinz Zimmermann  
Mobile 0428 478 594  
Email zimmo55@yahoo.com.au

EFT Details:  
Australian Koi Association  
BSB 082 343, Account 852 590 813  
(Please add your name)

## **RUSSIE KOI WA INTRODUCES**



DracoDrum  
**TO AUSTRALIA**

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

- The Solum 16 and 25, models continue to be the trend setters and they now have a bio chamber available.

This can be quickly attached to the drum in less than 1 hour.

The unit is then complete with a small footprint, providing excellent water quality, with zero historic filter cleaning.

- The exciting news: 'Big Bertha' is to be released as we go to print, having successfully completed a 12month operational trial period.

This larger unit but essentially the same design will cater for pump capacity to 50,000lph. It opens up a whole new world to those who have a larger than average fish pond.

DracoDrum is positioned very competitively in the RDF market without compromising on quality

Why consider a DracoDrum RDF over cheaper mechanical filtration methods?-

- Removes particles down to 58microns (less than the width of a human hair)
  - Vastly reduces maintenance and cleaning - you can go away and not worry about your filter clogging up
  - Would you like to eliminate brush and jap matt cleaning?
  - Indeed, would you like to eliminate almost any filter cleaning?
  - Like superior water quality and clarity - that polished effect?
- Be able to 'drop in' a DracoDrum into a current filter chamber, Nexus or vortex?
  - Fit the DracoDrum as a 'stand alone' to an old or new build pond
- It is designed to self clean with mains water pressure, no high pressure pump unit. On standby the unit uses less than 12 watts/hr and in full wash mode, 35 watts.

To find out more on the DracoDrum contact the Australian agent-

**0419987973**

**[WWW.RUSSIEKOIWA.COM.AU](http://WWW.RUSSIEKOIWA.COM.AU)**

**[WWW.DRACODRUM.COM](http://WWW.DRACODRUM.COM)**

**RUSSIE KOI WA ABN. 53 148 014 588**



# Supplies available to AKA members

## FOOD

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
HIBLOW 40 litre/hour		\$295.00
HIBLOW 60 litre/hour		\$310.00
HIBLOW 80 litre/hour		\$315.00
Aquarium Air Pump		\$25.00

## WATER

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

Carbonate hardness raising	2 kg	\$6.00
Slurpy Pump — fitted for use		\$180.00
'Virkon S' broad spectrum disinfectant	250 g	\$25.00
Air Tubing Clear (roll)		\$50.00
Air Tubing Green (per metre)		\$1.20
Plastic Bags (large) each		\$2.00
AKA Club Baseball Caps		\$20.00

## NETS

6" Nets		\$5.00
10" Nets		\$7.00

## TEST KITS

Ammonia Test Kit		\$20.00
pH Test Kit		\$20.00
Carbon Hardness Test Kit		\$20.00

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](mailto:anthony@personalautomotive.com.au) with your order and address, and Anthony will calculate delivery costs.

## Supplies by appointment, phone:

**North West Sydney**  
Anthony Waring  
0418 617 627

**South West Sydney**  
Gordon Kilborn  
0429 664 916

**Eastern Suburbs**  
John Rhodes  
0415 034 652

**Western Suburbs**  
Phil and Judy Rea  
0418 996 226



# The Pond Man



Specialising in design, construction and maintenance of any water feature.

Any size from small domestic ponds to large lakes.

Over 50 years combined experience building water features.

**Ricardo Moral, The Pond Man**

**Mobile 0414 075 398 [www.pondman.com.au](http://www.pondman.com.au) [info@pondman.com.au](mailto:info@pondman.com.au)**