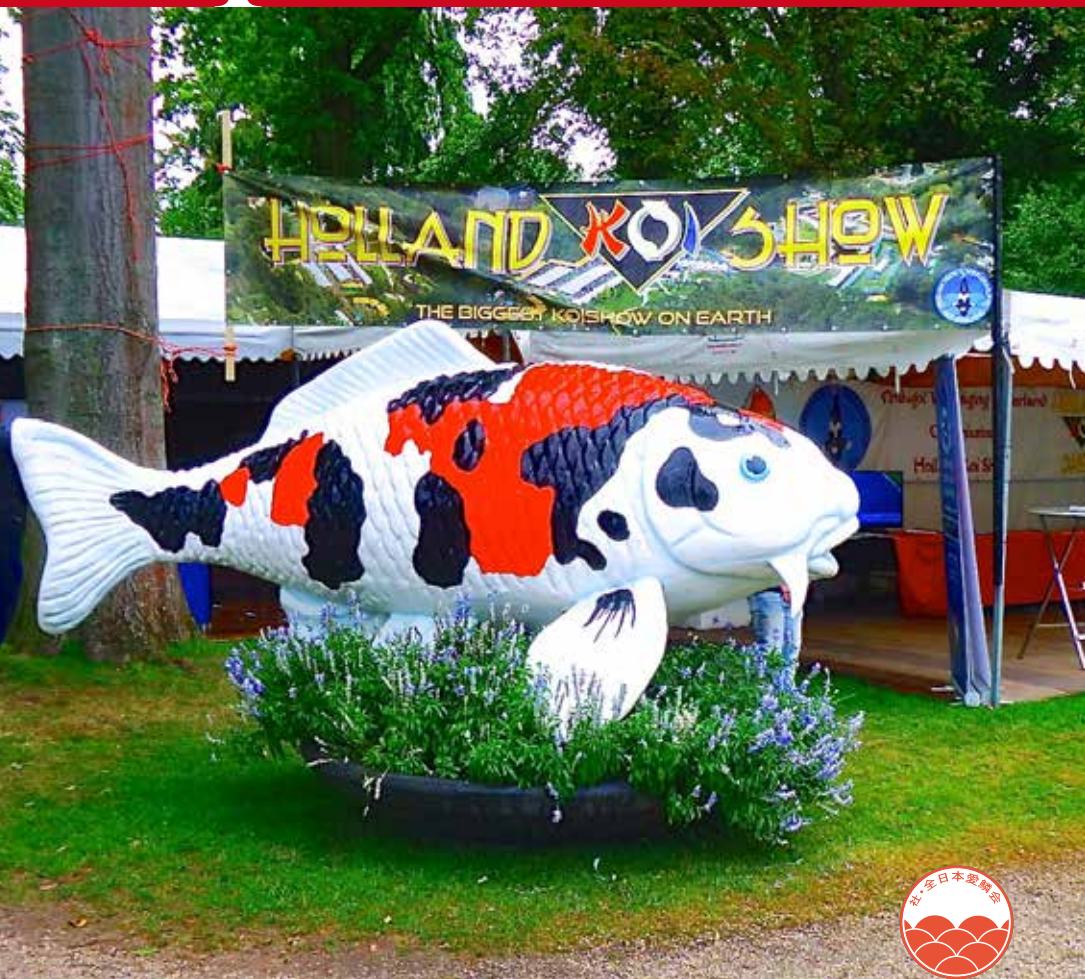


December 2021—January 2022

www.akakoi.com.au

AKA Reporter



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-

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AKA Reporter



December 2021—January 2022

Administrative members and contact details	2
President's Report	3
Meeting Notices and Agendas, News, New Members, Auction Dates	4-5
AKA's 2021 Virtual Young Koi Show—Judge's Profile	6
AKA's 2021 Virtual Young Koi Show—Judge's Commentary	7
AKA's 2021 Virtual Young Koi Show—Show Results	10
AKA Auction	23
AKA Mid Northern Region—Annual General Meeting	24
Exploring Kawarimono A (more than a single colour or Moyomo) <i>by Kate McGill-Andrews</i>	26
Membership renewal	31
AKA supplies	Inside back cover

Thank you to our advertisers...

Aussie Koi WA	Inside front cover
The Pond Man	32
AllCare Ponds	Back cover

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

Our cover photo depicts the famous 'Showa Koi Mascot' seen every year at the Holland Koi Show. As the world starts to once again open up, let's hope that post COVID-19 the koi fraternity can get back to our normal koi shows.

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*Deceased

All correspondence

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

President's Report



Well, finally we are starting to see a return to 'normality' as we enter this post acute pandemic stage following nearly a year of major restrictions and lockdowns. Let's hope it continues.

We still need a COVID Safety Plan for future meetings at our Georges Hall

Community Centre hall. For the time being members will still need to use the Service NSW App on their mobile phones to quickly register for all our meetings and our koi auctions as well.

With regards to our AKA koi auctions for next year, we have submitted our requested dates to Fairfield Council and are waiting for confirmation that we are OK to proceed in the next few months. The good news is the KSA have been given approval to hold their first auction on the 4th December, so I am optimistic we should be alright next year, once Saturday COVID testing at this site is completed. I will update members who have email via KOI NEWS when I hear anything further.

At our first meeting night we will need to hold our AGM, as COVID closure prevented us running it in November.

Members should be pleased to know that our recently held Virtual Young Koi Show was well received and I'm very pleased with the support by exhibitors as well as the number of young koi entered. Big congratulations to Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins for taking out the coveted Grand Champion with a stunning young Showa. I'd especially like to thank to Mr Alan Nementzik, ZNA Certified Judge for kindly selecting the winners. It was good to see some new names coming through to the winners' circle. I hope that you will continue to actively show your koi in person at next year's Sydney Koi Show.

I am very pleased to confirm our Sydney Koi Show 2022, is scheduled for 29 May at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. We are hopeful that we will be able to host international ZNA judges next year, providing the two-week hotel quarantine requirements are scrapped.

I would just like to send AKA's best wishes

to Graham and Lee Fameli as they make their 'tree change' to Browns Creek near Blayney in the central west of NSW. They intend to actively pursue the koi hobby and 'Minnamurra Koi' will only get better with purpose built koi houses. Best of luck with your new home, Graham and Lee!

Yours in koi
Ian Andrews
President, AKA ■

Stop Press!

We've made a last-minute decision to organise a subsidised AKA Christmas get together. Probably Sat 18th December at a reasonably central Chinese restaurant. Details will be emailed out shortly when we have made full arrangements.

AKA Koi News

We will endeavour to keep all AKA members up to date in-between the publications of our bi-monthly *AKA Reporter* magazine.

When it becomes necessary we will send an update information *AKA Koi News* via email.

Unfortunately, not everyone's email addresses are up to date. If you have NOT recently received an *AKA Koi News* email from us, could you please send your correct email details to Heinz Zimmerman at zimmo55@yahoo.com.au

It is very important that we can contact those members who have email to let everyone know about auctions and meeting changes, etc., especially in times like these.

AKA News and Events

Meetings of the AKA

Our monthly meetings will be held at the Georges Hall Community Centre. Meetings take place 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 10 January 2022

The January meeting of the AKA will be on Monday 10 January 2022 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

Note that any COVID-19 lockdowns will cancel any meeting. ■

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. ■

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 the following new members:
Felipe and Sue Barrera
Chris Bonica
Robert and Hanah Magri
KC and Jun Sin ■



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

We wish all our members and their families a wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

AKA's banking details

*Australian Koi Association,
NAB BSB 082 343
A/C 8525 90813.*

*Please always enter your
name on the transaction.*

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

Tentative dates only
Saturday 12th Feb 2022
Saturday 30th April 2022
Saturday 4th June 2022
Saturday 6th Aug 2022
Saturday 24th Sept 2022
Saturday 12th Nov 2022

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.

AKA Koi News

We will endeavour to keep all AKA members up to date in-between the publications of our bi-monthly *AKA Reporter* magazine.

When it becomes necessary we will send an update information *AKA Koi News* via email.

Unfortunately, not everyone's email addresses are up to date. If you have NOT recently received an *AKA Koi News* email from us, could you please send your correct email details to Heinz Zimmerman at zimmo55@yahoo.com.au

It is very important that we can contact those members who have email to let everyone know about auctions and meeting changes, etc., especially in times like these.

KSA Auction Dates

Saturday January 8th 2022
Saturday March 5th 2022
Saturday April 9th 2022
Saturday July 2nd 2022
Saturday September 3rd 2022
Saturday October 8th 2022
Saturday December 3rd 2022

Current Covid-19 restrictions as administered by Fairfield 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 Virtual Young Koi Show 2021

Judge's Profile



It is a pleasure to introduce Mr Alan Nementzik ZNA Certified Judge who kindly agreed to judge our 2021 AKA Virtual Young Koi Show. Alan has been a serious koi keeper for nearly forty years and has been a ZNA Certified Judge for as long as I can remember...more than 20 years and has judged all around the world. He originated from South Africa and was a senior member of the SAKKS Club for many years before his work transferred him to Singapore where once again, he took on senior roles within the Singapore Koi Club. Alan was the koi mentor for both Harry Beckx and Mike Harvey in the early days of their koi journeys.

Alan has kept koi in all these times and regularly visits Japan to both purchase koi and continue to develop his knowledge of all things koi. He has first-hand knowledge of many of the koi farms and their owners and has a passion for unusual koi. Alan has regularly kept koi in Japan and exhibits at the major koi shows including

the famous Shinkokai where he has won many awards including Best in Variety Bekko.

His daughter lives in Sydney, so Alan is a regular visitor here and would dearly love to judge at one of our Sydney Koi Shows. Alan has retired and is now living in the beautiful Phuket area in Thailand. Every year he breeds his koi, this last season he spawned his 93 cm karashigo with a 90 cm Asagi, in an effort to cross the perfect body structure of his Karashigo into his Asagi line, and perhaps to get something unusual as well!

It was a privilege to have Alan judge our Virtual Young Koi Show. Many thanks Alan. ■

Judge's Commentary

By Alan Nementzik

(i) Grand Champion

This koi displays deep thick lustrous Hi, along with well-positioned Sumi and good (albeit limited) Shiroji ensured this koi stood out. The positive attributes far outweigh any negatives. This Showa is a memorable and worthy Grand Champion.



(ii) Variety Champion Koromo/Goshiki

This koi highlights the strides made within Australia to improve the variety specifications. Despite a bit of smudging on the Hi, the overall quality is superb and cannot be faulted.



(iii) Variety Champion Utsuri

The Sumi on this koi blew me away. Great imposing head pattern and truly wonderful display of contrast between the black and white.



(iv) Variety Champion Showa

This koi was placed ahead of the others despite being very much 'Tategoi' in nature. The sheer quality stands out, and I believe it has a promising future.



(v) Class 3 1st Koromo/Goshiki

Whilst the robing is only just starting to develop, this Ai Goromo displays incredible promise and I look forward to seeing it in the future.



(vi) Class 2 1st Kohaku

Despite some slight damage/scratch on the shoulder Hi, this koi impressed with its stunning Shiroji, youthful even Hi plate with good Kiwa for such a young koi. The interesting pattern rounds off this beautiful koi. ■



Show Results

AKA Virtual Young Koi Show 2021

Alan Nementzik ZNA Certified Judge



Grand Champion

Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins

Size 3, Showa (36cm)

Breeder: Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins

Show Results

AKA Virtual Young Koi Show 2021

Alan Nementzik ZNA Certified Judge

Variety Champions	
Kohaku	Ian and Kate Andrews Size 3, Kohaku (39cm) Breeder: Ian Kate Ros and Lars
Taisho Sanshoku	Graham and Lee Fameli Size 3, Sanke (34cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi
Showa Sanshoku	Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins Size 3, Showa (39cm) Breeder: Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins
Shusui	Paul Miglionico Size 3, Shusui (35cm) Breeder: Paul and Heinz
Utsurimono	Edison Jap Size 2, Utsuri (25cm) Breeder:
Hikari Moyomono	TK Hing Size 3, Hikarimoyo (35cm) Breeder:
Hikari Utsurimono	David Chu Size 3, Hikari Utsuri (35cm) Breeder:
Metallic Doitsu	Edison Jap Size 3, Metallic Doitsu (30cm) Breeder:
Non-metallic Doitsu	Heinz Zimmermann Size 2, Non Metallic Doitsu (21cm) Breeder:
Koromo/Goshiki	Graham and Lee Fameli Size 2, Koromo / Goshiki (28cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi



Kohaku
Ian and Kate Andrews
Size 3, Kohaku (39cm),
Breeder: Ian Kate Ros and Lars



Taisho Sanshoku
Graham and Lee Fameli
Size 3, Sanke (34cm)
Breeder: Minnamurra Koi



Showa Sanshoku
Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins
Size 3, Showa (39cm)
Breeder: Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins



Shusui
Paul Miglionico
Size 3, Shusui (35cm)
Breeder: Paul and Heinz



Utsurimono
Edison Jap
Size 2, Utsuri (25cm)



Hikari Moyomono
TK Hing
Size 3, Hikarimoyo (35cm)



Hikari Utsurimono
David Chu
Size 3, Hikari Utsuri (35cm)



Metallic Doitsu
Edison Jap
Size 3, Metallic Doitsu (30cm)



Non-metallic Doitsu
Heinz Zimmermann
Size 2, Non Metallic Doitsu (21cm)



Koromo/Goshiki
Graham and Lee Fameli
Size 2, Koromo / Goshiki (28cm)
Breeder: Minnamurra Koi



Show Results

AKA Virtual Young Koi Show 2021

Alan Nementzik ZNA Certified Judge

Size 3			
	1st	2nd	3rd
Kohaku	Ian and Kate Andrews (39cm) Breeder: Ian Kate Ros and Lars	Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins (36cm) Breeder: W. Stoves and G. Collins	Peter Colgan (33cm) Breeder: Peter Colgan
Taisho Sanshoku	Graham and Lee Fameli (34cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi	Edison Jap (30cm) Breeder:	Ian and Kate Andrews (33cm) Breeder: Kevin Wong
Showa Sanshoku	Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins (39cm) Breeder: W. Stoves and G. Collins	Ian and Kate Andrews (32cm) Breeder: Ian Kate Ros and Lars	Graham and Lee Fameli (34cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi
Shusui	Paul Miglionico (35cm) Breeder: Paul and Heinz	Mark Robinson (35cm) Breeder: Heinz Zimmermann	Ian and Kate Andrews (32cm) Breeder: Heinz and Paul
Utsurimono	Mark Robinson (32cm) Breeder: Mark Robinson		
Hikari Moyomono	TK Hing (35cm) Breeder:	Bradley Bradley (39cm) Breeder: Bradley Bradley	Phil Edwards and Judi Rea (38cm) Breeder:
Hikari Utsurimono	David Chu (35cm) Breeder:	Mark Robinson (31cm) Breeder: Mark Robinson	Bradley Bradley (39cm) Breeder: Bradley Bradley
Metallic Doitsu	Edison Jap (30cm) Breeder	David Chu (39cm) Breeder	Gary Curtis (33cm) Breeder:
Non-metallic Doitsu	Edison Jap (30cm) Breeder:	Graham and Lee Fameli (31cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi	
Koromo/Goshiki	Ian and Kate Andrews (39cm) Breeder: Ian Kate Ros and Lars	Phil Edwards and Judi Rea (39cm) Breeder:	Gary Curtis (33cm) Breeder



Kohaku Size 3
Ian and Kate Andrews
(39cm) Breeder: Ian Kate Ros and Lars



Taisho Sanshoku Size 3
Graham and Lee Fameli
(34cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi



Showa Sanshoku Size 3
Wayne Stoves and Greg Collins (39cm)
Breeder: W. Stoves and G. Collins



Shusui Size 3
Paul Miglionico
(35cm) Breeder: Paul and Heinz



Utsurimono Size 3
Mark Robinson
(32cm) Breeder: Mark Robinson



Hikari Moyomono Size 3
TK Hing
Size 3, Hikarimoyo (35cm)



Hikari Utsurimono Size 3
David Chu
Size 3, Hikari Utsuri (35cm)



Metallic Doitsu Size 3
Edison Jap
Size 3, Metallic Doitsu (30cm)



Non-metallic Doitsu Size 3
Edison Jap
(30cm) Breeder:



Koromo/Goshiki Size 3
Ian and Kate Andrews
(39cm) Breeder: Ian Kate Ros and Lars



Young Koi Show in Japan held in Niigata.

Show Results

AKA Virtual Young Koi Show 2021

Alan Nementzik ZNA Certified Judge

Size 2			
	1st	2nd	3rd
Kohaku	Heinz Zimmermann (21cm) Breeder:	Graham and Lee Fameli (29cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi	Edison Jap (20cm) Breeder:
Taisho Sanshoku	Graham and Lee Fameli (28cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi	Mark Robinson (22cm) Breeder: Mark Robinson	Gavan Gribble (20+cm) Breeder: J. Irwin
Showa Sanshoku	TK Hing (22cm) Breeder: TK	Graham and Lee Fameli (25cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi	Mark Robinson (21cm) Breeder: Mark Robinson
Shusui	Phil Edwards and Judi Rea (21cm) Breeder: Heinz Zimmermann	TK Hing (28cm) Breeder: Heinz Zimmermann	Heinz Zimmermann (24cm) Breeder: Heinz Zimmermann
Utsurimono	Edison Jap (25cm) Breeder:	Mark Robinson (21cm) Breeder: Mark Robinson	TK Hing (28cm) Breeder:
Hikari Moyomono	David Chu (29cm) Breeder:	David Chu (23cm) Breeder	
Hikari Utsurimono	Mark Robinson (26cm) Breeder: Mark Robinson	David Chu (27cm) Breeder:	David Chu (23cm) Breeder:
Metallic Doitsu	David Chu (28cm) Breeder:	TK Hing (22cm) Breeder:	
Non-metallic Doitsu	Heinz Zimmermann (21cm) Breeder:	Bradley Bradley (21cm) Breeder: Bradley Bradley	
Koromo/Goshiki	Graham and Lee Fameli (28cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi	Phil Edwards and Judi Rea (29cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi	Bradley Bradley (20cm) Breeder:



Kohaku Size 2
Heinz Zimmermann
(21cm) Breeder:



Taisho Sanshoku Size 2
Graham and Lee Fameli
(28cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi



Showa Sanshoku Size 2
TK Hing
(22cm) Breeder: TK



Shusui Size 2
Phil Edwards and Judi Rea
(21cm) Breeder: Heinz Zimmermann



Utsurimono Size 2

Edison Jap
(25cm) Breeder:



Hikari Moyomono Size 2

David Chu
(29cm) Breeder:



Hikari Utsurimono Size 2

Mark Robinson
(26cm) Breeder: Mark Robinson



Metallic Doitsu Size 2

David Chu
(28cm) Breeder:



Non-metallic Doitsu Size 2
Heinz Zimmermann
(21cm) Breeder:



Koromo/Goshiki Size 2
Graham and Lee Fameli
(28cm) Breeder: Minnamurra Koi



Let's hope our next Young Koi Show can be held once again in reality in our Japanese clear show bags which are all ready to go for 2022.

AKA AUCTION

Tentative date:

Saturday 12 February 2022

Fairfield City Showground, Smithfield Road PRAIREWOOD NSW

Bookings: Contact Heinz Zimmerman 0428 478 594



AKA Mid Northern Region, Coffs Harbour

Annual General Meeting

We conducted our AGM on Nov 21st and 18 people attended.

All processes reflected the current Constitution and essentially went without difficulty. The returned Committee members are:

- Chairman Gavan Gribble (returned unanimously)
- Deputy Chair Peter Hemmings (returned unanimously)
- Secretary Robyn Brierley (returned unanimously)
- Treasurer Pooney Pun-Gribble (the outgoing Treasurer did not seek re-election and stood down)



One of the grow on Kohaku from Peter Hemmings.

There is a raft of support positions that were set in place.

The major highlights of the AGM reflect the quite significant growth in the club following the previous Chairman's departure.

Membership has grown from 15 to 34.

We conducted a very successful Bunnings BBQ.

We featured Vet based fish autopsies—live to a big screen and live 'Team' based IT links into Sydney (Paul Miglionico).

We conducted a 'Show' where we had some 40 entries.

We have some \$6,200 in cash assets—was \$3360 at the last AGM.

Against a COVID-impacted year we managed to conduct 8 out of 11 meetings at which 5 of those meetings had live fish present.



Zoe's kohaku.

My Chairman's congratulations to the previous Executive Committee and their support group as well as to those returning and newly-elected Executive Committee members.

Following the AGM we conducted a 'Show and Grow' event where Peter Hemmings offered 17 fish (Kohaku) of some 13 months of age; the quality of some of these fish is reflected in the attached photos.

Thanks to Gordon's (Gordon K) effort we had an ample supply of fish food available and consequently sold over \$500 worth of product.

Sydney Virtual Koi Show prize certificates were printed and handed to successful members (thank you for your help Ian). Special congratulations to Greg and Wayne—stunning looking fish and a well-deserved Championship win.

A platter luncheon donated by a member followed—thank you Felipe and Sue.

December 19th is our next meeting—Xmas BBQ—Coffs Harbour Gardens at 10 am. ■



Chris Archer was happy with his grow on.



Another happy member—Zoe with her young grow on kohaku.



New member Felipe receives some koi guidance from Greg Collins.

Exploring Kawarimono A (more than a single colour or Moyomono)

Part 1 The black and white Karasugoi

Kate McGill-Andrews

Introduction

Kawarimono or Kawarigoi is an enormous 'catch-all' group of non-metallic koi with several recognisable sub-categories, the single colours (Kawarimono B)—discussed previously—and the multi-coloured varieties of which the Karasugoi form another useful and easily recognisable subgroup of Kawarimono A (photo 1). Kin-gin-rin examples also occur within the Karasugoi, but remember, they are classified for show purposes as Kin-Gin-Rin B (photo 2).

Basic appreciation requirements for multi-patterned Kawarimono

Beyond the obvious requirement of an excellent shape (including a broad head, smooth lines along the flanks with the widest part of the body at the shoulders and leading to a well-muscled tail area or peduncle (compare photos 1 and 2 with 3 and 4)), appreciation points for multi-patterned Kararimono are a little more complex. We have patterns to

contend with, although these can vary widely, within the Karasugoi, from the simple white fin tips of a Hajiro (photo 5) to the fully reticulated black and white Sumiagashi (photo 6).

Karasugoi are basically black koi, beginning with the Crow koi included with Kawarimono B since it has no white at all. Other Karasugoi are named according to position and extent of white patterns plus whether they are fully scaled (*wagoi*) or doitsu (a maximum of two scale rows along the dorsal and a single row along each lateral line).

Skin quality is always the next most important appreciation point, not easily described. Black skin (*sumi*) should be coal black, lustrous and shiny (photo 7), with no visible scalation. White (*shiroji*) is expected to be snow white, wherever it appears (photo 8). If red (*hi*) is present, again it should look as if it has been thickly painted onto the koi.

Patterns for the Karasugoi can be very variable but the basic requirement of clear pattern edges applies to all, especially trailing edges of the pattern on a fully scaled koi and all edges on doitsu koi.



(1) Sumi on this Matsukawabake is quite stunning.



(2) A fascinating, high quality Gin-Rin Matsukawabake.



(3) Excellent quality cannot compensate for a poor shape.



(4) This Kumonryu is a little short in the body, not the best shape.



(7) A Kumonryu with superb sumi, also on the head.



(5) Almost a Hajiro, but this koi was probably a Matsukawabake. Note the lighter patch over the shoulders.



(8) An unusual minimal Matsukawabake. Note the lovely black eyes and clean white.



(6) A rare Suminagashi.



(9) A Gin-Rin Matsukawabake with a clean white head.

Looking at individual Karasugoi

(1) Hajiro

The simplest patterned Karasugoi (see photo 5), in a way it would seem fairer to include this koi with the single colours since only fin tips carry another colour (white) and in a show a Hajiro would have to be quite spectacular as to

shape and quality to successfully compete with a Karasugoi carrying more interesting patterns, for example, a Matsukawabake. Underbellies of Hajiro may be shaded to white or red in some cases. The black skin must look incredibly deep and lustrous on a superbly shaped koi with neat white fins and tail. A good quality, huge Hajiro is something very special and rarely seen.



(10) An interesting Gin-Rin Matsukawabake with more sumi but spoiled by the dark head.



(11) Another look for Matsukawabake.



(12) An unusual but attractive Matsukawabake.



(13) A dark Matsukawabake.



(14) Another very dark Matsukawabake showing excellent sumi.



(15) A young kumonryu showing development of the classic dragon pattern sumi arrangement.

(2) Hagashiro

Essentially a Hajiro with additional white on the head only therefore the same appreciation criteria apply, but it is important to remember that the white head pattern should be a true white. Often it appears grey, not desirable.

(3) Yotsushiro (four points of white)

A Hagashiro with an additional white dorsal fin.

Again, appreciation of Yotsushiro is essentially the same as for Hagashiro. These three Karasugoi are very similar and all are fully scaled koi.

(4) Matsukawabake

With the three Karasugoi varieties above, Matsukawabake's lineage can be traced back to Asagi Magoi. This explains why a red belly (secondary hi) is quite common on Karasugoi,



(16) This Hana Shusui shows the desirable position for sumi patterns on a Kumonryu.



(17) A rather minimally patterned Kumonryu.



(18) Not a lot going right for this Kumonryu.



(19) White skin not bright enough



(20) Beautiful clean white on this stunning Kumonryu. *(Photo courtesy Johan and Domi Leurs.)*



(21) A Champion Kumonryu in 2016.

it is from the Asagi Magoi line. Matsukawabake are named for 'seasonal changes'; their black and white patterns are quite variable and have been described as reversing in positions between summer and winter, although I have not observed this. However, they are definitely changeable and tend to become darker with age. The most easily recognisable distribution of black and white on a Matsukawabake includes black over the nose,

around the head and along the top of each gill plate (see photo 1). Motoguro (black pectoral fin joints) are common. The shoulder and dorsal areas tend to carry a high proportion of white skin with the tail area largely black. However patterns on Matsukawabake are almost infinitely variable (confusing for hobbyists, see photos 9–14) and like Showa, black (sumi) often appears in some areas as unfinished but very interesting. As long



(22) The same koi in 2021, still a champion.

as finished, visible sumi is absolutely solid and very high quality, the reticulated, unfinished sumi is viewed as part of the truly fascinating patterns these koi carry. If present, solid white areas should look snow white. Matsukawabake can appear truly stunning, even more so if they carry gin-rin scaling (see photo 2).

(5) Suminagashi

Essentially a 'black and white' Asagi in appearance (see photo 6), Suminagashi are incredibly rare koi. They differ from a Shiro Matsuba in that they have a black and white tracery on the head, whereas a Matsuba has a completely clean head. A true Suminagashi has full black and white reticulation all over the body, but generally they will carry areas with some solid sumi patterns and are essentially still Matsukawake.

(6) Kumonryu

Perhaps the most desirable and well recognised of the Karasugoi, Kumonryu are always doitsu (photo 15) and for an AKA show would be classified as non-metallic doitsu. Either kagamigoi (at most four rows of scales including one at each lateral line) or kawagoi—practically scale less, Kumonryu are named after dragon paintings because of the preferred wavy sumi patterns between dorsal and lateral lines, rather like the hi patterns of a Hana Shusui (photo 16). However, this favoured arrangement of sumi is the exception rather than the rule and sumi



(23) Almost no white left on this large Kumonryu.



(24) A beautiful Beni Kumonryu.

patterns are very variable on this type of koi (photo 17). Very dense, lustrous sumi is an appreciation criterion and edges of the patterns should look knife-like: absolutely clean cut. White skin, where it appears should look snow-white (compare photos 18, 19 and 20). Unfortunately a grey or slightly brownish head is all too common for Kumonryu and detracts from their impressiveness – particularly since the head is often white alone with no sumi patterns. Kumonryu are slow growing and large examples, even today, are rare. As for other Karasugoi, the extent of sumi tends to increase with age and a once beautifully patterned Kumonryu can end up almost completely black, a rarely reversible change (photos 21, 22 and 23). In more recent years the Beni Kumonryu has made an appearance, with red patterns alongside or completely replacing the white areas (photo 24). This very attractive koi is thought to have been developed by crossing Kumonryu with Kikusui (doitsu Hariwake Ogon). The cross can (supposedly) result in either Kin-Ki-Kokuryu (metallic koi) or the non-metallic Beni Kumonryu. However, I am not sure if anyone in Australia has attempted this cross although other pairings, (for example Kumonryu and Kohaku), have been experimented with and found very disappointing with respect to producing Beni Kumonryu. Still a work in progress! ■



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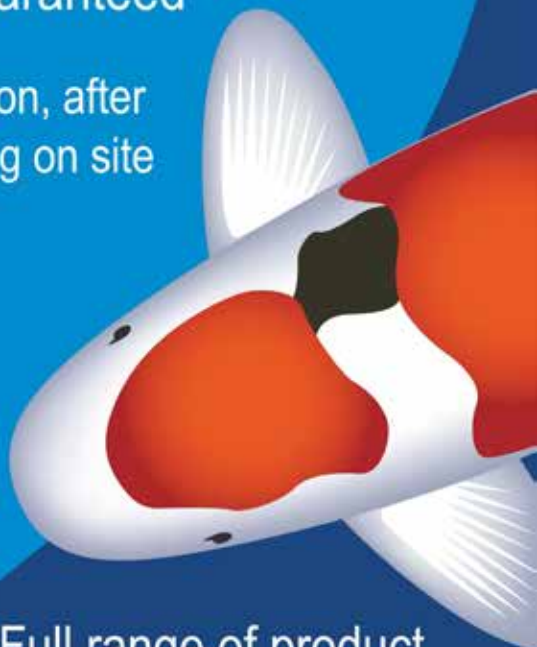
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