



October – November 2011

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**Deceased*

All correspondence

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

President's Report



This will be my last report as your current President, having announced my intention to stand down. A new chairperson will be elected at our forthcoming Annual General Meeting to be held at our November meeting.

Formally, I would like to offer my personal thanks to all the loyal and hardworking Committee members for their dedication and hard work over the many years I have served. It has been an honor to head such a great koi club and I know it will continue to grow and prosper in the future.

A special mention also to Harry Watson, our web founder and our longtime webmaster who is currently doing battle with his health and has stepped down from the web master's task. On behalf of the Club, Harry our thoughts and prayers and many, many thanks for all your efforts, enjoy the Bathurst car races in October. Rest assured Harry that it is the intention that the club will continue to operate the web site and we hope to be able to get it back up to full strength very shortly, revamping it to be one of the most informative koi web sites around.

Our October meeting Ian and Kate will report on their trip to participate at the **Taiwan Koi Show** held the previous weekend in Taipei, which will make a very interesting evening, as there will be over 1000 very high quality koi entered.

Our November meeting will be our **Annual General Meeting** for the election of a new Committee for the next 12 months. It is very important that we try to attract some new faces to join in and help with the operational side of the AKA. This year we will be seeking new President, Show Chairperson and Webmaster.

Also at our November meeting we have invited new member **Martin Rocliffe**, who up until his recent immigration to Sydney, was the

President of the North Wales Koi Club. Martin will give us an informative talk on **Koi Keeping from Old North Wales to New South Wales**.

As well on this evening we will be holding our Table Show Grand Final, where all the previous winning Judges Choices throughout the year will compete against one another to select our **Tategoi of the Year** competition

The weather at this time of year is often very unstable and for those members who may wish to breed their koi, it is often better to wait till the middle of October or into November as a sudden cold snap is often fatal to the newly hatched fry. Don't forget to fully treat your breeding ponds etc in preparation to spawning.

A reminder to all members to please make every effort to enter our **Annual Small Koi Show** (Size 1, 10-20 cm) being held in conjunction with our **Christmas Party on Sunday 4th December** at our club hall. We hope to see a huge number of koi entered.

Yours in koi...

Paul Miglionico

AKA Small Koi Show & Christmas Party

Size 1 (10-20 cm)

Sunday 4th December 2011

Scottish Hall Bankstown

Coming events for members

Meetings are held at the Scottish Hall, 4 Weigand Avenue, Bankstown on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

October Meeting

The October General Meeting of the Australian Koi Association Inc will be held at the Scottish Hall, 4 Weigand Avenue Bankstown on Wednesday 5 October 2011 at 7.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome to new members and guests
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of minutes of previous monthly general meeting held 7 September 2011
4. Raffle
5. Reports
6. General Business
7. **Guest speakers Ian Andrews and Kate McGill will report on their trip to participate at the Taiwan Koi Show.**
 - 8. Pizzas and nibbles
9. Table Show Results
10. Raffle Draw

November Meeting

The November Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Australian Koi Association Inc will be held at the Scottish Hall, 4 Weigand Avenue Bankstown, Wednesday 2 November 2011, 7.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome to new members and guests
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of minutes of previous monthly general meeting held 5 October 2011

4. Raffle
5. Reports
6. General Business
7. **Guest speaker: Martin Rocliffe, Koi Keeping from Old North Wales to New South Wales**
8. Social Break
9. Table Show Results
10. 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 (see details on page 2) for more information or use the application form included in this magazine.

Welcome to the following new members:

Martin Rocliffe

AKA auction dates

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



Bankstown City
NSW Chapter
Zen Nippon Airinkai

Sunday 16th October 2011
Sunday 11th December 2011

Facebook

The AKA has started a Facebook page...go to Facebook and search for 'Australian Koi Association' or direct to www.facebook.com/AustralianKoiAssociation.



KSA auction dates

Commencing 10.00 am at Auburn Botanical Gardens:

Sunday 20th November 2011

The sale of koi by members of the AKA can

only take place between members of koi clubs and associations only, as per NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) guidelines.

Redfish Magazine

AKA Members are invited to take up the offer of a free subscription to a new on-line e-magazine called Redfish. This new magazine will include articles on koi from time to time.

Also we hope to be able to promote our Club and AKA Auction days in this newsletter also which hopefully will increase membership and bidders at forthcoming auctions.

Sign up now its free. See below for details.



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Tategoi of the Year Competition

It's time again for our Tategoi of the Year competition - at our November meeting all the previous Monthly Table Show winners from the past year will line up against one another to compete for the Tategoi of the Year Trophy. Here are all the monthly winners with the exception of the October Judge's Choice that

was selected after we printed this issue.

Think you can pick the ultimate winner? Come along on Wednesday 2 November and see who the winner is!

There will be no table show entrants, just the Tategoi of the Year competitors.



January: Kohaku, John Ling



**February: Asagi,
Christopher Miglionico**



**April: Shiro Utsuri,
Terry McNeill & Lex
Rayment**



**May: Kohaku, Terry
McNeil and Lex
Rayment**



June: Asagi, Betty & George Ludbrook



July: Asagi, Ian Andrews & Kate McGill



September: Hikari Utsuri (Kin Ki Utsuri), Fred & Rita Grech



August: Kohaku, Terry McNeil & Lex Rayment

AKA Annual Young Koi Show

Despite the dreadful weather on the day, AKA once again hosted our Annual Young Koi Show for Size 2 and Size 3 koi. This year saw 152 beautiful koi entered across all 18 classifications and under the judging expertise of Gerard and Kazuyo McDonald they managed to complete the judging task well before lunch.

This year, possibly for the first time ever (and before the judges had made any announcements), saw a “unanimous decision” with all competitors singling out the same koi as their personal choice for Grand Champion—a truly wonderful Kinginrin Koromo bred and raised by Graham and Lee Fameli.

The judges formally sealed the decision and another home grown Aussie koi was anointed Grand Champion.

The full story on the Show and all the winning koi will appear in the next issue of our magazine.



The 2011 Young Koi Show Grand Champion. What a superb koi... even the Japanese would be proud.



Graham Fameli with his newly crowned Grand Champion.



The show must go on—despite the miserable wet weather.



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Koi Critique – Tancho Yamatonishiki

Tancho Yamatonishiki (Tahn' ch-oh Yay ma' tow knee she key)

Tancho koi are easy to classify in that red (*hi*) appears only on the head. The original Tancho is a bird, the Tancho crane, white with a circular red marking on the head. Like the flag, 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. In Tancho class, only Tancho equivalents of the “big three” koi varieties (Kohaku, Sanke & Showa), are included for show purposes. Other koi varieties, as demonstrated this month, may also produce a Tancho variant, but they are classified with the basic variety.

The Tancho koi featured is an Australian bred, metallic multi-patterned Hikarimoyo exhibited at the Australian Koi Society Young Koi Show in September 2009 bred & raised by John Ling. The closest classification is that of Tancho Yamatonishiki, the metallic version of a Tancho Sanke. However, there is a faint, pewter coloured reticulated effect visible over white skin, reminiscent of Goshiki patterning. If the koi were non-metallic, Tancho Goshiki Sanke would probably be a more accurate description of the koi, as viewed on this occasion.

Despite the slight question mark over its identity, this koi is a very attractive and interesting Hikarimoyo with an excellent shape for a young koi, good lustre and a clearly marked, deeply coloured and homogeneous Tancho marking. Notice the Sanke sumi has remarkable depth of colour for a metallic koi and is very neatly arranged along the back. Only minor demerits to note are a slight unevenness to the rim of the Tancho spot and a fleck of *hi* in one eye. An interesting and very unusual koi of excellent quality.

Kate McGill

AKA Small Koi Show & Christmas Party

Size 1 (10-20 cm)

Sunday 4th December 2011

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A Basic Guide to Classifying Koi

Introduction

Interestingly, even the most experienced koi hobbyist will occasionally come across a koi difficult to classify, because within the basic show varieties, new sub-categories keep turning up. A good example is the relatively recent development of the Ginga (galaxy – photo 1), a metallic Matsukawabake (metallic black fully scaled koi with variable white areas).



Photo 1

While thirteen show classes are most commonly used in the UK, elsewhere in the world, some varieties of koi are so numerous at shows they are given their own separate class. For example, Goshiki (photo 2 - five colours), generally classified in Koromo is often “stand-alone” at large Zen Nippon Airinkai (ZNA) shows in Japan and Asia.

Although there are popular, easily recognisable groups of koi like Kohaku (red and white) or Ogon (metallic single coloured koi), it is important to learn to look for particular features, which will also help you classify less well-know koi. Some of these recognition



Photo 2

points will be included in the overview of each show class discussed below, together with actual varieties currently shown in that category as well as important variety-specific appreciation points.

Important Characteristics Common to all Koi

For every koi, of any variety, certain appreciation points must always be considered, the most critical of which is **conformation**: the overall shape and proportions of head, body and fins. Without good conformation, you cannot have a good koi, regardless of the excellence of other features.

Of those other features, the quality of the skin is the second most important point to recognise for any koi, manifest as clarity, depth and homogeneity of colour. Good skin looks smooth, silky and glowing on non-metallic varieties. On metallic koi, the shine should be mirror-bright.

Third and finally (perhaps easily forgotten),

every koi needs to show itself to best advantage. That is, it needs to be healthy and in a good environment to present an active, interested and free swimming impression.

Show Class (1) – Kohaku (photo3)

Defining features: a non-metallic, white Koi with solid red (*beni* or *hi*) patterns which must appear on head and body. Individual Kohaku names are pattern-based, for example, Maruten Kohaku means the head pattern is separate from the body pattern. Nidan, Sandan and Yondan Kohaku refer to two, three and four pattern steps along the back. **Kanoko** (dappled fawn) Kohaku are included in Kawarimono (see below).

Important Characteristics: White skin on Kohaku should be snowy white from nose to tail, appearing very smooth. White on the nose and before the tail are highly desirable features for Kohaku, as are white breaks between red pattern elements. These breaks allow appreciation of sharply defined, trailing hi pattern edges (*kiwa* i.e. facing the tail). Because at the leading edge, white overlaps red, a little blurring (*sashi*) is acceptable in this area. Large red patterns are most impressive, but ideally,



Photo 3

should not cover eyes or cheeks, or run into fins.

Common problems for Kohaku are:

- Yellowing of the white skin, especially on the head and fins
- Uneven hi.
- Development of secondary red or “Asagi Hi” speckles along the sides below the lateral line.
- Development of small (scale-sized or less) black marks called shimis.
- Pattern-related problems, for example, an entirely red head (*menkaburi*).

Did you know? Desirable colour of red has changed over the years. Originally dark and purple-based, today a more orange-based, lighter shade of red is considered more elegant.

Show Class (2) - Taisho Sanke (Usually referred to as Sanke – photo 4)

Defining features: a non-metallic, white Koi with solid red (*beni* or *hi*) and black (*sumi*) patterns on the body. The head of a Sanke is expected to be red and white only. All fins may



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 7



Photo 6

carry fine black stripes (*tejima* or *tezumi*). A Sanke with almost no visible white is called an **Aka Sanke**. **Kanoko Sanke** appears in Kawarimono (see below).

Important Characteristics: Red and white patterns on a Sanke should ideally fulfil the same criteria as those for Kohaku. An exception is the Aka Sanke, where almost the entire Koi is red, with black patterns superimposed. Sumi markings should look coal black, dense and very glossy with sharply defined edges, particularly trailing edges (*kiwa*). Black is preferred over white, but may also appear over red. Black patterns should be neatly arranged along the back, ideally, beginning with a large shoulder marking (*Tsubo*, or well – placed *sumi*).

Common Problems: include those listed for Kohaku **plus**;

- Poor quality, thin, dull-looking sumi, which never improves.
- Large numbers of very small black speckles (*jari sumi*).
- Poor edges to sumi markings. Good *kiwa* of



Photo 8

sumi is difficult to achieve.

- Sumi pattern-related problems, for example, lack of balance shoulders to tail.

Did you know? Desirable size and number of Sanke sumi markings has changed over time. Now quite large and relatively numerous, years ago, the “minimal Sanke” was popular.

Show Class (3) - Showa Sanshoku (usually known as Showa – photo 5)

Defining Features: **Recognise** the non-metallic, black, red and white **Showa** by extensive, deeply wrapping black (*sumi*) patterns around the body, plus sumi on head, nose and pectoral fin joints (*motoguro*). A **Kindai** or modern Showa has fewer sumi markings. A **Hi** (red) **Showa** has very little white. **Kage Showa** has grey-reticulated white. **Kanoko Showa** is classified with Kawarimono (see below).

Important Characteristics: Red (*hi*) and

white patterns on a Showa should ideally fulfil the same criteria as those for Kohaku, except for Hi Showa, where almost the entire body is red, with black patterns only. Sumi is expected to look glossy, blue-black and very dense. Although not all sumi may look solid, (providing an attractive reticulated effect), some areas must be, for excellence. Edges of black patterns should be sharp, except where a leading edge is over white. Here, blurring (*sashi of sumi*) gives a desirable three-dimensional effect. Although white on the nose and before the tail is ideal, either red or black appearing as a match in the same positioning is also acceptable for Showa.

Common Problems include those listed for Kohaku and Sanke **plus**;

- Genetic defects, for example a small, pointed head, bent spine or deformed mouth, seem to be more common for Showa than many other varieties.

Did you know? Thin, dull or greyish “unfinished” sumi on Showa is probably a carryover from original Tetsu or “Iron” Magoi ancestors.

Show Class (4) - Utsurimono – Shiro Utsuri (photo 6), Hi Utsuri (photo 7), Ki Utsuri

Defining Features: Black (*sumi*) with white (*shiro*), red (*beni* or *hi*) or yellow (*ki*) two coloured, non-metallic Koi. **Recognise** non-metallic **Utsurimono** by sumi patterns. They are in the same configuration as those described for Showa but with only **one** other colour. **Kage** (Shiro, Hi, Ki) **Utsuri** (photo 8) has grey-reticulated white, red or yellow skin (classified with Kawarimono).

Important Characteristics: Base white, red or yellow should be evenly developed in all areas without spots or stains. Shiro Utsuri is the most popular Koi of the group; its stark black and bluish-white beauty is very eye catching. Sumi, as for Showa, must be dense and glossy with sharp trailing edges, the pattern leading the



Photo 9

eye from nose to tail. On Shiro Utsuri, black pectoral fin joints (*motoguro*) are also expected.

Common Problems:

- Poor growth characteristics. Utsurimono do not often achieve a very large size.
- Yellowing of white skin on Shiro Utsuri.
- Poor quality black, which looks thin (scales visible through it), uneven and dull.
- Rough looking, jagged edges to the black patterns.
- The base colour spotted with numerous tiny black speckles.
- On Hi and Ki Utsuri, completely black fins and very heavy black patterns

Did you know? (a) On Hi or Ki Utsuri pectoral fins are striped with *sumi*, rather than showing *motoguro* and (b) in recent years, Shiro Utsuri has become almost as popular as “the big three” (Kohaku, Sanke and Showa), due to tremendous improvements in their quality and black pattern stability.

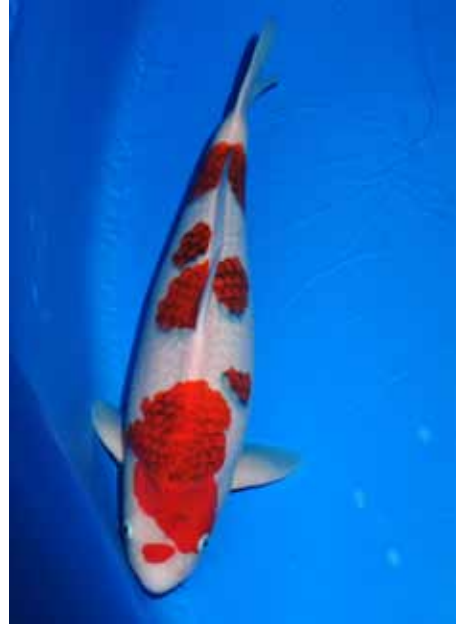


Photo 10

Show Class (5) - Bekko – Shiro Bekko (photo 9), Aka Bekko, Ki Bekko

Defining Features: **Recognise** the white (*shiro*), red (*beni*, *hi*, *aka*) or yellow (*ki*) non-metallic **Bekko** by its fairly small, rounded, Sanke-style black (*sumi*) markings. No black should appear on the head of a Bekko although small markings are seen occasionally. All fins may carry light black stripes (*tejima* or *tezumi*).

Important Characteristics: White should look snowy white from nose to tail, showing no stains, or small black speckles. On Aka or very rare Ki Bekko base red or yellow should look even and strongly coloured with no white areas visible. *Sumi* markings should be neatly arranged along the back in a “stepping stone” pattern, ideally beginning with a distinctive shoulder marking. *Sumi* quality and pattern edge requirements are the same as for Sanke.

Common Problems:

- Yellowing of the white skin on (particularly male) Shiro Bekko.



Photo 11

- Black patterns can be either too light, scattered as many small spots or too extensive and heavy. Bekko must look neat.
- Poor sumi pattern edges. Good kiwa of sumi is difficult to achieve.

Did you know? Bekko are not bred as a group, they only appear “accidentally” from (usually) Sanke spawnings therefore are effectively “rare Koi”. Unfortunately, they are also not very popular, so not many are seen.

Show Class (6) – Koromo - Ai Goromo, Sumi Goromo (photo 10), Budo Goromo, Koromo Sanke, Koromo Showa, Traditional Goshiki (see photo 2), Modern (true) Goshiki, Goshiki Sanke, Goshiki Showa

Defining Features: **Recognise** non-metallic Koromo by their feature of a blue or black reticulated effect or **vignette**. The vignette covers **red (hi) patterns only** for **Ai, Sumi & Budo Goromo, Koromo Showa or Koromo Sanke**. **Traditional Goshiki** have a vignette over red and

white and **Modern Goshiki** over white skin only. **Goshiki Sanke** or **Showa** can be Traditional or Modern Goshiki types with additional Sanke or Showa style black (*sumi*) markings.

Important Characteristics: Points already discussed for Kohaku red and white patterns are also important for Koromo, and red patterns for Goshiki, including appearance of pattern edges. For crossbred Koi (i.e. Koromo (or Goshiki) Sanke and Showa), appropriate black (*sumi*) pattern characteristics apply. The blue or black vignette effect is expected to be sharply defined, wherever it appears. Koromo usually show beautiful blue sashi at the leading edge of each red pattern element, because of the vignette effect. Goshiki are a very mixed group. White skin can appear almost black on some, on others the vignette effect is grey and indistinct. Modern Goshiki are not expected to show any vignette over red patterns.

Common Problems: include those listed for Kohaku and for Sanke or Showa sumi when present (e.g. on Koromo Showa) **plus;**

- An uneven and/or blurred vignette.

Did you know? Koromo means “robed” or “veiled”, referring to the usual appearance of the vignette, darkest at the trailing edges of scale areas.

Show Class (7) - Asagi/Shusui (photo 11) – Konjo Asagi, Narumi Asagi, Hi Asagi, Taki Asagi, Mizu Asagi, Hana Shusui, Hi Shusui (photo 12).

Defining Features: Non-metallic Asagi and Shusui are blue koi with a dark blue ‘pine-cone’ wedge to each scale area (*vignette*). **Asagi** are fully scaled (*wagoi*), whereas **Shusui** are “*doitsu*”, meaning they have only a maximum of four lines of scales, two along the dorsal line and one along each lateral line. Asagi and Shusui usually have some red (*beni* or *hi*) around the nose and cheeks, along the body and in the fins. The different names (i.e. Konjo, Hana) refer to shade of blue or level / position of red. For example, a **Hana Shusui** has narrow red patterns between dorsal and lateral scale lines.



Photo 12

Important Characteristics: Critical points for Asagi and Shusui include a spotlessly clean, light blue or white head and a very clearly defined vignette effect, each scale area showing a neat, darker blue, 'pine cone' pattern. Hi should look 'fiery' bright, and neatly bordered wherever it appears. For Shusui, along the dorsal line, the scales should look very neatly laid, in two complete rows, without any odd, (redundant) scales and the skin between scale lines should show no spots or stains.

Common Problems:

- Yellowing or staining of the head.
- Development of large numbers of tiny black spots on the body.
- Dull, brownish or washed out red colour.
- Grey, rather than blue colour.
- A blurred, indistinct vignette.
- For Shusui, incomplete scale lines, redundant, out of line scales or poorly shaped mismatched scales within the lines.



Photo 13

Did you know? Asagi, from Asagi Magoi (Japanese food fish), is probably the earliest recognised Koi, appearing by natural mutation in the 19th Century.

Show Class (8) - Tancho – Tancho Kohaku, Tancho Sanke (photo 13), Tancho Showa

Defining Features: **Recognise** non-metallic Tancho by the red (*beni* or *hi*) marking on the head **ONLY**. No red patterns should appear on the body.

Important Characteristics: The Tancho marking on the head is a key feature, hi should look even, thick and clear bordered with no overlap onto eyes, cheeks, nose or shoulders. A round marking is most desirable, although other shapes (square or lobed like a flower) are acceptable. White skin needs to be pure white without spots or stains. Black (*sumi*) patterns



Photo 14

(Sanke or Showa style) should look well developed; dense, shiny, bluish-black with neat trailing edges (*kiwa*). Leading edges can show a narrow blue border (*sashi*). Because the body is white only, Tancho Kohaku must show very even scale lines (*kokenami*).

Common Problems: include those listed for Kohaku, Sanke & Showa **plus**;

- The Tancho marking extends over an eye, down the nose or onto the shoulders.
- A few small red spots appear on the body. The Koi cannot be called a Tancho.
- Uneven, thin and/or poorly edged Tancho hi.

Did you know? The word “Tancho” derives from the Japanese crane, a white bird with a round red crest.

Show Class (9) – Kin-Gin-Rin (A) - Kin-Gin-Rin Kohaku (photo 14), Kin-Gin-Rin Sanke, Kin-Gin-Rin Showa

Defining features: **Recognise** kin-gin-rin koi by three or more lines of very shiny (mirror-like) scales along each side of the dorsal fin. To be classified in **Kin-Gin-Rin A**, the base variety must be Kohaku, Sanke or Showa. **Gin-Rin Shiro Utsuri** is sometimes included with Kin-Gin-Rin A (ZNA). *Kin* scales are gold (over yellow/ red/ brown), *gin* scales silver (over white / grey / black).

Important Characteristics: Sections discussing Kohaku, Sanke, Showa & Utsurimono give the important points for each basic variety, unchanged for Kin-Gin-Rin as it is an “add on” feature, although creating a separate show classification.

Kin-gin-rin may be:

- *Beta* (complete shiny scale),
- *Hiroshima* (shiny lines on each scale – “cracked glass” appearance),
- *Pearl* (lumpy, shiny deposit in the centre of each scale).

Beta-gin is considered best, although Hiroshima-gin is the most common. Kin-gin-rin scale lines must be complete from shoulders to tail and the shine very even over the entire back, for excellence. Large numbers of kin-gin-rin scale lines reaching down the sides are highly regarded.

Common Problems: include those listed for Kohaku, Sanke, Showa & Utsurimono **plus**;

- Kin-gin-rin may be poor quality, insufficiently shiny, uneven or only appearing on scale edges (*Kado-gin*)
- Kin-gin-rin may impact detrimentally on other pattern features. For example, blurring trailing edges (*kiwa*) of red or black pattern elements.

Did you know? Practically every known variety of Koi can produce a Kin-Gin-Rin equivalent, for example, **Gin-Rin Asagi**. Some Koi societies have a Kin-Gin-Rin (B) class for them (ZNA – photo 15).



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17



Photo 18



Photo 19

Show Class (9) - Kawarimono or Kawarigoi – Group 1 (Single Coloured Koi) Chagoi, Sorogoi, Kigoi, Benigoi (photo 16), Midorigoi, Shiro Matsuba, Ki Matsuba, Aka Matsuba). Group 2 (Karasugoi) Hajiro (photo 17), Hageshiro, Yotsushiro, Matsukawabake, Suminagashi, Kumonryu (photo 18), Beni Kumonryu). Group 3 (Others) Ochiba Shigure (photo 19), Sanke-Shusui, Showa-Shusui, Utsuri-Chagoi, Kanoko Kohaku, Kanoko Sanke, Kanoko Showa, Kage Shiro Utsuri (see photo 8), Kage Ki Utsuri, Kage Hi Utsuri, Kage Showa).

Defining Features: **Group 1** includes single coloured, non-metallic Koi, with or without a 'pine cone' reticulated effect over all scale areas (Matsubagoi).

Group 2 includes all the Karasugoi; black Koi, the names indicate varying amounts of



Photo 20

white. Beni Kumonryu is an exception, also showing red (*hi*). Kawarigoi can be either fully or partially scaled (*doitsu*). Kumonryu are always *doitsu*.

Group 3 includes all other unclassified Koi. Ochiba Shigure is a good example. Some have a particular feature, which renders them non-competitive in their original variety (for example, Kage Shiro Utsuri, Kanoko Kohaku). Groups 2 & 3 may include metallic varieties. For example, ZNA classify **Ginga, Ki Kokuryu** and **Kin Ki Kokuryu** (photo 20) in Kawarimono.

Important Characteristics:

- - Single coloured Koi (group 1) must show homogeneous, bright, unstained colour from nose to tail, including all fins. Scale lines (*kokenami*) must also be even, giving a neat, faintly netted appearance. For Matsuba, the vignette needs to be sharply contrasting in colour with clear edges.
- Largely black Karasugoi (group 2) should



Photo 21

look like polished ebony, so deeply black that no scales are visible. Where white or red is present its colour should be even and unstained. Edges between black, white and red areas should be sharply defined, particularly on doitsu varieties like Kumonryu.

- For group 3 koi, particular points largely follow those of the basic varieties. Kage and Kanoko effects should look sharply defined. Ochiba Shigure patterns are expected to be in a 'Kohaku-style'. A faint black vignette, sometimes seen on this variety, must be neat.

Common Problems: include many relevant to basic varieties for group 3 koi **plus generally**;

- Spots and stains on head and / or body.
- Yellowing of white skin.
- Poor quality, dull, uneven colours.
- Blurring of pattern edges or vignette.
- Uneven scale lines
- Over-patterning results in a messy presentation.

Did you know? *Kawari* means “something strange”, which perhaps defines the group in two words. Non-metallic Koi, which cannot be placed in any other classification, are all in Kawarigoji

Show Class (11) - Hikari Utsuri – Gin Shiro Utsuri, Kin Ki Utsuri, Kin Hi Utsuri, Kin Showa (photo 21).

Defining features: **Recognise** Hikari Utsuri as the metallic equivalents to Utsurimono and Showa varieties. They are expected to have black patterns on the head, as pectoral fin joints (*motoguro* – **Kin Showa, Gin Shiro Utsuri**) or broad stripes (*tejima, tezumi* – **Kin Ki / Kin Hi Utsuri**) and as deeply wrapping, large, jagged patterns on the body. Kin Showa is silver based with gold or metallic red and black patterns. The metallic Utsuri have black patterns on a silver, gold or metallic orange / red base. Doitsu versions are occasionally seen.

Important Characteristics: Include those listed for the basic non-metallic Showa and Utsurimono. Additionally, as for any metallic Koi, good lustre is highly desirable, but difficult to achieve alongside deep colours like red and black. Unusually, a clear silver window on the head of Kin Showa is a plus, because the silver base should be incredibly shiny and shows to greatest advantage on the head. Leading edges, as well as trailing edged of patterns should be sharp on Hikari Utsuri because of the reflective skin.

Common Problems: include those listed for Showa & Utsurimono as well as:

- Faded colours (red (*hi*) is often gold, black patterns may look brownish or pewter coloured.
- Poor or uneven lustre (shine).

Did you know? A top quality, large Kin Showa is very highly prized because they are one of the most difficult varieties to achieve to a high standard.

Show Class (12) Hikarimuji – Purachina (Platinum) Ogon, Nezu (Mouse – grey) Ogon, Cream Ogon, Lemon Ogon, Yamabuki (photo 22 - bright gold) Ogon, Orenji (orange) Ogon, Hi (deep red) Ogon, Gin Matsuba (photo 23), Kin Matsuba, Kin Hi Matsuba, Mizuho Ogon.

Defining Features: Single coloured metallic Koi ranging from bright silver to deep red, plus those with an additional ‘pine cone’ reticulated effect, or vignette, over all scale areas (**Matsubagoi**). Hikarimuji may be either fully scaled or doitsu.

- Important Characteristics: High lustre or ‘shine’ demonstrates excellent skin quality and is a critical feature for all metallic koi. It is harder to obtain for the darker metallic colours. Additionally, Hikarimuji are plain koi therefore imperfections of colour and scale lines (*kokenami*) are very noticeable. The Matsuba varieties require sharp definition of the vignette.

Common Problems:

- Insufficient and uneven lustre.



Photo 22

- Dark spots and stains appearing on head and/or body.
- Uneven colour and/or scaling.

Did you know? Hikarimuji (or Ogon) probably appeal to a wider range of people than any other variety of Koi. With their brightly shining beauty, they are real “show-stoppers” and have done much to promote the Koi hobby over the years.

Show Class (13) - Hikarimoyo – Hariwake Ogon or Platinum Kohaku, Kikusui (doitsu Hariwake Ogon – photo 24), Kujaku (photo 25), Yamatonishiki, Shochikubai, Tora Ogon, Gin Bekko, Kinsui / Ginsui, Sakura Ogon, Ki Kokuryu, Kin Ki Kokuryu, Ginga

Defining Features: **Recognise** fully scaled or doitsu Hikarimoyo as metallic versions of most varieties except Showa & Utsurimono.

For example, **Yamatonishiki** is a metallic Sanke, **Tora Ogon** a metallic **Ki Bekko**.

With the exception of **Ki Kokuryu, Kin Ki Kokuryu** (see photo 20) & **Ginga** (sometimes classified with Kawarimono) Hikarimoyo are



Photo 23



Photo 24

not expected to have black on the head or as pectoral fin joints (*motoguro*). The well-known **Kujaku** (Peacock) is patterned similarly to Hariwake Ogon (silver with gold/orange/red patterns), with the additional feature of a vignette, like a metallic Goshiki.

Important Characteristics: Excellent shine heads the list for every metallic koi. Also required is good colour contrast between the silver base and pattern elements. Where red (*hi*) is present, the colour should be as deep as possible. In contrast to non-metallic Koi, all patterns edges on metallic varieties should look sharp; no *sashi* (the blurred leading edge of a pattern should be visible. Pattern elements should look balanced and fit the koi. The vignette on Kujaku should look sharply defined in all areas. Interestingly, a silver window on the head is a desirable feature for Hikarimoyo like Kujaku and Hariwake Ogon.

Common problems: Include those discussed for



Photo 25

Kohaku and Sanke with respect to pattern and edges, as well as;

- Colours may lack contrast. It is difficult to achieve deep metallic red and black.
- Black spots and stains, particularly on the head and fins, often appear on many Hikarimoyo.

Did you know? Hikarimoyo are comparable in their diversity to Kawarimono, with a common metallic theme.

Jargon Busters

Kanoko (dappled fawn) - hi appears as scale-sized spots, rather than solid hi patterns.

Kage (shadowed) - white skin has a faint grey vignette.

Doitsu (German scales) - a maximum of four scale lines. Two along the dorsal line and one at each lateral line.

Vignette – every scale area shows a wedge of grey, black or blue, depending upon koi variety.

Ochiba Shigure (autumn leaves on water)

- grey koi with orange/brown Kohaku-style patterns).

Sanke or Showa Shusui, Utsuri Chagoi - cross-bred koi with features of both parents.

Chagoi – brown koi.

Sorogoi – grey koi.

Midorigoi – green (usually doitsu) koi.

Benigoi – bright red koi.

Kigoi – yellow koi (with red eyes).

Shiro Matsuba – white koi with a black ‘pine-cone’ vignette.

Ki Matsuba – yellow koi with a black ‘pine-cone’ vignette.

Aka Matsuba – red koi with a black ‘pine-cone’ vignette.

Karasugoi – fully scaled black or ‘crow’ koi.

Hajiro –Karasugoi with white fin tips.

Hageshiro –Hajiro with white on the head.

Yotushiro - Hajiro with white on the head and dorsal area.

Matsukawabake – Karasugoi type with quite extensive, unstable white patterning.

Suminagashi – Karasugoi with a complete white vignette.

Kumonryu – doitsu black koi with white

patterns running laterally along the body.

Beni Kumonryu – Kumonryu with variable additional red patterns.

Ginga – metallic Matsukawabake.

Ki Kokuryu – metallic Kumonryu.

Kin Ki Kokuryu – metallic Beni Kumonryu type.

Hariwake Ogon or **Metallic Kobaku** – metallic white koi with gold/orange/red patterns.

Sakura Ogon – a metallic Kanoko (dappled red) Kohaku.

Kikusui – doitsu version of the Hariwake Ogon.

Yamatonishiki – metallic Sanke.

Kujaku – metallic white koi with gold/orange/red patterns and a ‘pine-cone’ vignette over white and red, as for Traditional Goshiki.

Tora Ogon – metallic Ki (yellow) Bekko.

Gin Bekko – metallic Shiro Bekko.

Shochikubai – metallic Koromo.

Kin or **Ginsui** – metallic Shusui (Kinsui has more red).

Kate McGill



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Table show results

August 2011

Kohaku

1st Terry McNeil & Lex Rayment; 2nd Graham Farneli

Hikari Utsuri

1st Terry McNeil & Lex Rayment

Metallic Matsuba

1st Terry McNeil & Lex Rayment

Metallic Doitsu

1st Graham Farneli

Koromo

1st Terry McNeil & Lex Rayment

Kinginrin A

1st Terry McNeil & Lex Rayment

Judge: John Rhodes

Judge's Choice: Kohaku, Terry McNeil & Lex Rayment



August Judges' Choice: Kohaku, Terry McNeil & Lex Rayment

September 2011

Kohaku

1st Ian Andrews & Kate McGill

Sanke

1st Fred & Rita Grech

Showa

1st Ian Andrews & Kate McGill

Utsuri

1st Ian Andrews & Kate McGill

Tancho

1st Fred & Rita Grech

Hikari Utsuri

1st Fred & Rita Grech

Non Metallic Doitsu

1st Brad Bradley

Kinginrin A

1st Fred & Rita Grech; 2nd Fred & Rita Grech

Kinginrin B

1st Fred & Rita Grech; 2nd Shane Murray

Judge: John Rhodes

Judge's Choice: Hikari Utsuri (Kin Ki Utsuri), Fred & Rita Grech



September Judge's Choice: Hikari Utsuri (Kin Ki Utsuri), Fred & Rita Grech