



Return address
c/o Acting Editor
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KOI SOCIETY OF WA



SEPTEMBER 2008 Issue

New members, existing members and visitors are welcome at all meetings.

General Meetings are held at

Rotary Hall, Sandgate Street, South Perth
7:30pm, on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except Dec)

Northern Branch Meetings are held at

Wanneroo Recreation Centre, Scenic Road, Wanneroo
7:30pm, on the second Tuesday of each month.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS
WEDNESDAY
24 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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Koi Society of Western Australia

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Committee of 2008-2009

President

Bill Passey 9535 7732, 0438 357 732, bpassey@bigpond.com

Vice President

Rod Strang 9375 9878

Secretary

VACANT

Assis. Secretary

Allan Bennett 9405 9331, 0419 907 973

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Shona Whaite 0428 746 620, me@shona.org

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Tim LeRoy 9306 2844, 0437 511 644

Sales Table

Kerry Cross 9453 6509, 0417 959 009

Membership Officer

Phil Lehmann 9310 3368

Committee Members

Stuart Rowley 94906190, 0437 203 976

Phong Ta 9405 6135, 0409405698

Charlie Giorgio 0408 911 964

Other Positions

Show Chairman

Webmaster

Luke Bray, webmaster@koiclubwa.com

Trophy Steward

Door/Tea Person

Table Show Helper



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Freya's Pond Update

If you remember I was having a bit of trouble with a leaking pipe. After speaking with a few different people and about different products I ended using 'Aqua knead it' - it goes on like a putty and dries hard. It took me a couple of goes to get it smooth around the edges enough to stop the leak but finally it worked and hasn't leaked since. Of course the pipe was only high enough for me to get my head under if a wiggled along on my back. 'Upside-down Commando Freya to the rescue!'

After a few days of running the system with a temporary pump we decided that we would put a couple of test fish in. So now I have two fish both called 'test fish' happily swimming around with my other ones as all seemed to be ok and I put the others in after a few days. I am still monitoring it all and making a few changes here and there but I must say it is lovely to see the fish actually swimming around and changing directions as they pleased. They like to join up in different schools and swim around— it is very enjoyable watching them.

Tim and I have been very busy with the cutting of the decking support system and now have it at the stage to start putting it all in place. Hopefully our measurements are correct and it all goes together correctly. Tim got his mate Mark to come over and do a full day's welding and it is all taking shape. We now have to work how to get it to my place and put it altogether.

The electrician is due on Monday to put in some power points for me so I can tidy up the leads that are laying around and start tidying up around here. I have done a bit to the garden that I had dug up and have spread a truck load of mulch there and will replant it all later when the decking has been finished I don't want to trample all over newly planted bushes. It will be nice to re-do the garden as it was about 14 years old and needed an update.

Sorry no photos this month as I forgot to take my camera to Tim's when we were doing the welding.

Welcome to the September issue of the KSWA Newsletter.

We are pleased to report that the Northern Branch now has an elected sub-committee—see pages 12 and 13 for all the details.

Our next General Meeting in South Perth (Wednesday 24 September) has some interesting topics planned:

- Bill Passey will be talking about what to look for when culling Kohaku,
- Allan Bennett will be giving a talk on spawning material, and
- Rodney Hansen will be doing another of his fantastic visual presentations with our new projector (surprise topic).

The next Northern Branch Meeting in Wanneroo (Tuesday 14 October) will feature a talk by Allan Bennett on Showa breeding, selecting parents, culling, feeding, tategoi showa; and Cameron will be talking about pond equipment: the good, the bad and the ugly, what you need for a successful small pond.

As usual both meetings will have a Question & Answer session if you want to get some advice & opinions from other members; and tea, coffee & biscuits. See the newsletter cover for venues and times.

Welcome to all our new members—we hope you and your families enjoy your time with the club.

Shona

Events Calendar

Wednesday 24 September—General Meeting, South Perth

Tuesday 14 October—Branch Meeting, Wanneroo

Wednesday 22 October—General Meeting, South Perth

Sat & Sun 1 & 2 November—Cannington Agricultural Show (pg 11)

Tuesday 11 November—Branch Meeting, Wanneroo

Sunday 16 November—Member Auction (pg 8)

Tuesday 9 December—Branch Meeting, Wanneroo

Christmas Party—date and location TBA



General Minutes 27th August 2008

Opened: 7.50 PM, Number of members attending: 23, **Apologies:** None

New Members: Cliff & Rhonda D'Mello, Hoa Do & Kim

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes: : None

Confirmation of Previous Minutes. **Moved:** Ces Graham **Seconded:** David Gibson

Carried by ALL as a true record.

Correspondence In: None

Correspondence Out: None

Treasurers Report: as at 27th August

None. Treasurer Josie Giorgio apologised that due to time constraints and the paperwork associated with the recent Public Auction she was unable to table a Treasurer's report.

Library: No new books in the library but Tim Leroy our librarian did request the help of members who still owned and used a VCR to view the club's old video cassettes and test whether they are still in working order and worth retaining. He also put on display the club's new video/digital projector.

Sales Table: Kerry our sales table custodian indicated that NO new products were added since he has been in the seat. He did however indicate that a new pricing regime would be in place soon with ALL good being marked up only 10%.

Table Show Results:

	Table Show 'A'	Table Show 'B'
1 st	Sanke, Tony Cornwallt	Gbekko, Allan Bennett
2 nd	Showa, Allan Bennett	-

Congratulations to both Tony and Allan. The quality of fish entering the Table Show has been remarkable and this meeting was no exception. Incidentally the sanke entered by Tony was bred by Bill Passey and whilst being a 1 step is likely to be an imposing sanke in future years. Many thanks also to our resident judge Ces Graham who did the honours tonight.

General discussion:-

Free samples

Bill shared with members some free samples that had been provided by Aquatec for display to members. These included koi food, and sachets of powdered bacteria and algae treatments. Bill emphasised that he had not used any of these products before and as such could not express an opinion on its effectiveness. Some light discussion on string algae and its treatment ensued.

Seasonal Change

Bill Passey gave a brief oral presentation on "Seasonal Change" particularly on transitioning koi and ponds from Winter into Spring. Bill stated that this transition is generally a difficult time of the year for koi due to the instability of water temperatures.

Some interesting discussions came up in Q&A

- Fred Sharp queried if the Sales Table would be present at future Northern Branch meetings - Bill answered that the details were still being finalised, but the NB will essentially organise their own member services if they wish to.
- Des asked for advice on why the black on some of his fish faded to almost white over Winter. Discussion ensued about genetics & young fish often not being fully developed in colour. Generally black should strengthen in Winter, so check pH. If pond is exposed to rain, acid rain in Winter can cause pH swings (good idea for all koi keepers to check pH especially in Winter).
- Oyster shell (in a bag) can be useful for pH stability - these can be sourced by asking your local restaurant to save them. Oyster shell is made from calcium and magnesium which will affect the hardness of water, so add slowly (as with any change in your pond) to avoid fast changes in water chemistry.
- Discussion about algae surfacing as the weather warms - suggestions included checking phosphate levels (from fertiliser runoff) and nitrAte as both of these can fuel algae growth. Small ponds (under 15000L) seem to be more affected by algae, maybe due to higher temperatures (less volume = heats up more easily).
- Many "snake oil" products exist for algae, take their claims with a grain of salt. Liquid algae killer can be effective but is generally a band-aid solution - a better idea is to try and find the *cause* (high phosphate, high nitrAte, etc) and correct that.
- Overfeeding at this time of year is common as fish appear more active - this can lead to excess nutrients in the water, as the bacteria in filters haven't had a chance to "catch up" and deal with the extra waste. Slowly increase the amount being fed.
- Bill emphasised that water changes are the key to good water, especially with smaller ponds. 10% weekly (or 20% fortnightly) is a good idea.
- Rodney brought up some good points - that clean water does not necessarily equal good water parameters as many of the nutrients/toxins are clear; and that experienced koi keepers would not generally use or advocate putting additives in ponds, no matter what the packaging claims, they usually have some negative effect.



NORTHERN BRANCH NEWS

Around 35 people attended the 2nd Northern Branch meeting on Tuesday 9 September. KSWA President, Bill Passey, came along to give his congratulations and support to the new Branch. Bill spoke about how he sees Branches as key to the club expanding, and foresees the development of other Branches in WA - maybe a Bunbury Branch or South-West Branch.

A (short!) election took place to put a Northern Branch committee in place. The committee will focus on local matters and work with the main Central committee when needed.

Fred Sharp nominated Allan Bennett for the Branch Chairman position. Seconded by Nancy Tucker. There were no other nominations and Allan accepted the position.

Allan Bennett nominated Richard Mussel for the Secretary position. Seconded by Tony Cornwall. There were no other nominations and Richard accepted the position.

Fred Sharp nominated Des Howlett for the Treasurer position. Seconded by Allan Bennett. There were no other nominations and Des accepted the position.

Allan Bennett nominated Shona Whaite for the Public Relations position. Seconded by Tim Leroy. There were no other nominations and Shona accepted the position.

Shona Whaite nominated John for Teaperson position. Seconded by Fred Sharp. There were no other nominations and John accepted the position.

Rodney Hansen gave an informative talk & visual presentation on Ogon (single coloured fish). He went through the history of the Ogon variety and showed the vast array of colours & types available. Rodney explained that there are so many varieties and sub-varieties of koi that it would be physically impossible to own one of each (unless you had a million litre pond!), so it was important to keep varieties & fish that you personally like.

Table Show

	A	B
1st	Showa - Phong Ta	Doitsu Goshiki - Phong Ta
2nd	Kohaku - Bonsai Man	Koromo - Bonsai Man
3rd	Showa - Phong Ta	-

Thanks to Bill & his assistant judges for their help judging the Table Show.

Cleaning Filters

Some light discussion surrounded this topic with the following "Rule of Thumb"

- Slowly is ideal. It is not advisable to clean all chambers at once.
- Do not use tap water but rather existing pond water (best) or de-chlorinated water
- Do not clean out filters with a view to making them spotless.

Signage

Charlie Giorgio raised the need to improve the signage for future auctions or the annual show. The committee endeavoured to visit this with a view to possibly asking the Greyhounds for digital advertising on their large electronic board.

Daphnia

Rod Strang (with the aid of visuals/daphnia in a bag) gave an informative talk on raising, keeping and maintaining a daphnia culture. His talk encompassed:-

- Stages of development and life cycle
- Reproduction
- Feeding (vegemite, brewers yeast, fry powder). Rod was of the opinion that daphnia eat a fair bit for their size similar to budgies.
- Maintenance (water changes, oxygen, temperature)

Rod concluded by saying that daphnia provide an excellent food source for fry.

With nothing further to discuss Bill declared the meeting closed at 21h40.

"Believe it or not, a koi's skin actually overlays its scales. This clearly shows how thin and delicate the skin is as when we view koi, it is their scales that actually appear to form the final outer barrier of their body. The very delicate skin actually envelopes each scale in a pocket of skin, giving each scale protection.

One of the most important protective functions of the skin is to continually secrete mucus onto the external surface of the skin. Mucus is a very simple protein and is secreted to provide koi with a 'buffer zone' and a layer of primary protection against external attack."

Ref: pond-doctor.co.uk

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SALES TABLE

All proceeds from your sales table are used as a fund raiser for your clubs needs. Please support your club by purchasing your requirements through the sales table.



Call KERRY CROSS on 9453 6509

Items listed is a sample of what can be supplied

Keeping Koi In Australia \$20- Illustrated bible on koi keeping.

Water conditioners- Dechlorinator 2.5 litre \$37

Dechlorinator 5 litre \$62

Bionatural conditioner (concentrate) \$18

Bacteria Aqua \$10

Water treatments- Koi anti parasite 250ml \$17, 1 litre \$45

Koi anti ulcer 250ml \$24, 1 litre \$65

Koi anti bacteria \$17

Virkon S 100g \$15

Ammonia remove r250ml \$24

Test kits- Master test kit \$44

PH test kit \$10

GH & KH test kit \$12

Ammonia test kit \$22

Air pumps- Alita- 40 litre \$225, 80 litre \$350 & 120litre \$550

Air stones- Ceramic 50mm \$5 & 40mm \$4

Koi Handling- 60cm dia fine super mesh net \$70-excellent for sml koi

Culling net 30cm dia \$30

Koi sock 30cm dia – water proof \$65

Filtration- Filter brushes- 60cm \$5.50, 75cm \$6 & 90cm \$7 ea

Koi food per 1kg- Fry powder \$15

Ocra Baby food sizes 1, 2, 3, & 4 \$15

Sekirin Japanese food \$17

Quick grow \$9

Koi King Growth formula \$10

Koi King Excel Formula \$14

Koi king Wheat germ \$12

Koi King Colour Enhancing Formula \$15

Also supplied in 10kg bags

Miscellaneous- Koi 66 Variety poster \$20

UV lights and pumps

- Remember to purchase some fry powder (Yes, please hold some for me!)
- Although we are unable to achieve this ourselves, you should have your mature male & female koi already separated – this isn't a disaster if you cannot, however watch for a mass spawning in the pond after a really hot day.
- Choose the parent koi and give it ample thought depending upon what line of koi you are ultimately trying to achieve – the parents do not have to be champions themselves but from good breed lines with specific traits that you are seeking eg: good kiwa, good Ginrin, great sumi or hi plate etc
- Finally, clear a spot on the mantle for the Grand Champion trophy.

This is obviously not a full list of everything that is required, however just a simple reminder of the things we all should be doing right now.

Personally, Sharon & I are spawning GinRin Sanke again and Doitsu Kujaku which is a first for us, so I will see what eventuates.

Good luck to everyone, whether this is your first attempt or yet another try at that elusive Grand Champion we spoke of earlier.

Luke Bray

Cannington Agricultural Show



WHEN? Saturday & Sunday 1st and 2nd November 2008

WHERE? Cannington Greyhounds
Station Street, Cannington (same venue as our Annual Koi Show)

We have been invited to attend the Show, and it is a great opportunity to promote the koi keeping hobby and our Society to the public.

We will just have a simple setup– a couple of bins with fish, plus some pamphlets if anyone wants to know more about koi or KSWA.

If any members are able to come along for a few hours to answer any basic questions the public might have, please let us know.

The Show looks to be a great event, so bring the family along for a few hours of entertainment (don't forget to say "Hi" to us!)

SPRING HAS ARRIVED AT THE BRAYS!



Spring is here and apart from those poor sods who suffer terribly from hay fever and the like, it is the time of year that a lot of members in the club, including Sharon & myself look forward to.

Why? Well it's spawning time – a time when we pin our hopes on those parental koi to do their thing in trying to breed that elusive grand champion. A feat that we all strive for but only a few have reached!

Here are the basic steps that we follow every spring to ensure a less stressful period of spawning and for the upcoming hotter weather:-

All koi keepers ...

- Clean out and/or flush your filter chambers. Remember to only do one chamber a week as you do not want to deplete all your bacteria at once and ensure you use the same pond water. In no circumstances use tap water as this will completely destroy your bacteria colony on your filter material.
- Replace all UV lights as they really only have a 12 month lifespan.
- Check all pumps, air hoses etc and repair or replace if necessary.
- Spring brings out hibernating flukes etc so make sure you have available Formalin, Neguvon & salt and remember to read the koi Bible or ask another experienced member if you are unsure – asking first is a safer bet!
- Start increasing the amount of daily food and the higher protein based products will ensure better growth rates over the warmer months. You will need to feed them at least twice a day initially & then three times during the summer months. The sales table will have most if not all the necessary food you will need - try some earth worms as they love em!

For those who breed ...

- Depending upon your pond space, prepare the spawning and rearing ponds to allow ample time for water to be suitable for fry.
- Start a daphnia colony as a live food source for the hungry fry.



RIGHT: one of Luke's breeding ponds

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KSWA MEMBER AUCTION SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2008

WHERE: Venue will be announced in the next newsletter

WHEN: Sunday 16 November 2008

SELLERS—Book your bin by Sunday 9 November 2008

As bins and airlines need to be organised in advance, no late entries (or entries on the day) can be accepted.

The venue and time will be announced in the October newsletter—this is just a heads up to start preparing if you would like to sell some fish on the day.

This Auction is just for club members—you need to be a financial member to buy or sell koi at this event.

SELLERS

- You need to be a current member of KSWA
- You need to **BOOK** your bin by Sunday 9 November 2008
- To book please contact Bill Passey—phone 0438 357 732, fax 9535 7011 or email bpassey@bigpond.com
- Seller fees: 10% of your total sales goes to the club

BUYERS

- You need to be a current member (bring your membership card)
- You don't need to register, just show up on the day and bid!
- Buyer fees: extra 5% on final bid is payable to the club

Members are welcome to come along to the Auction even if they are not planning on Buying or Selling fish—there is no entry fee or obligation to purchase.

RIGHT: Members checking out the quality fish at one of our previous Member Auctions.



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