



NEWS UPDATE JULY 2017

It has been great being away from the paying gig for the past month – not that I have been doing a lot around the sanctuary, it's just been nice being around throughout the days and watching how everybody spends it. July is always the coldest month of the year and this year we've reached a new all-time low of -8 degrees – twice! The days have mostly been lovely and sunny, well up until today, which has been rainy throughout. This morning was the first time in a while that I got soaking wet while out doing the morning chores – it is long overdue and very welcomed.

Even though I haven't been doing more than the usual duties here it has been a busy month with new arrivals, a major fundraiser, article writing and assisting people find homes for others.

The month began with the arrival of 11 roosters, 10 hens and a lone duck from another sanctuary which shut its doors. It is always sad to hear of a sanctuary closing and the reasons are usually the same – lack of money and personal strain. This was no exception. The person who contacted me had to close her doors because she was “not coping well at all - both financially and psychologically”. “I am desperately putting out a call for urgent help, you are my last message out so I am hoping you can help me!” she wrote. “My current situation is not good I am needing to find a wonderful home/s for my animal here. I will list the remaining animals who are needing to be rehomed below with the hope that you could possibly take on some/all of them” Thankfully, another sanctuary was able to take her cow and sheep but here was a dilemma about eight pigs she had in residence thankfully at the eleventh hour a suitable home as found for all of them.

Other new arrivals included a young rooster called Red, from a hatching project at a Sydney preschool and five silkie roosters from various people, all of whom had purchased them as chicks believing they were hens. Thankfully, Red has easily fitted in with some other juveniles from a hatching project taken in earlier this year, while the silkies are becoming buddies and hanging out together in the house paddock.

There's been some amazing anniversaries celebrated as well. Two turkey girls - Bea and Rue (pic over page) marked four years of liberation. They arrived here along with 13 of their sisters on July 13 2013. They had come from a shed where they would have spent three months of their lives before being collected and sent to be killed to become someone's Christmas turkey. These gals are into their twilight years despite their youth. Most turkeys from intensive farm situations rarely enjoy such longevity as their bodies or hearts usually give out because of the pressure they are under due to the selective breeding they have resulted from. These two are so far the longest surviving former factory farmed turks to have dwelled here.



Then there's the young roosters (pic below left) who arrived here a year ago from an egg industry hatchery where they were destined to be feed alive into a mincing machine because as roosters they don't lay eggs.

Another nice mark was little Tiny, the broiler hen, celebrating four months since her liberation. Tiny arrived here at the end of March, along with some brothers and sisters. They were from a chicken meat factory and less than two-weeks-old. Tiny was much smaller than her siblings and would have definitely died (before the 5-7 week period when all broilers are killed for humans to eat) had she stayed where she was. Her growth is stunted and in the sheds where there are thousands of birds crammed together she would have easily been crushed by her siblings who grew quicker than she did. Due to her size Tiny ended up growing up with the flock of hatching project chicks Red has joined and Tiny still hangs out with them as well spending lots of time sitting in the sun and scratching in the outdoors.

In between all this the fabulous folk at Vegan ACT ran a vegan bake sale and BBQ for the sanctuary one Saturday morning in front of The Cruelty Free Shop in Canberra, which brought in more than \$1300, that I managed to spend within days on much needed hay to get the sheep and goats through winter. The support this organisation gives to

A Poultry Place and other sanctuaries in the region is incredible and all done by volunteers. They are coming out here in a few weeks time for another working bee.

I was also honoured to have been asked to write a piece on being an animal rights activist for an organisation called Plan to Thrive. Plan to Thrive is a project aimed at encouraging and supporting the health and wellbeing of people and groups engaged in working for social and ecological justice. I knew of their work through my paid work so was chuffed when they approached me to write for them. Their website <http://plan-tothrive.net.au/> has some fab resources, which would be of benefit to many of you so check it out and they hold various training events throughout the year.



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