

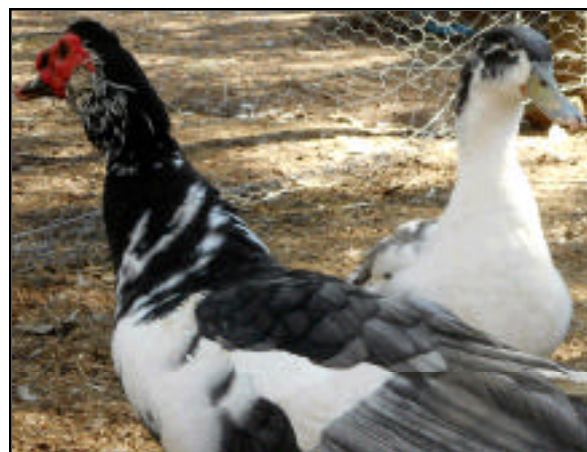
The rain has continued to fall and we are well ahead (more than 250mm above) the average rainfall to this time of the year. So the wet, muddy conditions of the past few weeks continue. There's been some sunny periods when almost everything dries out only to get saturated again (see pics next page) and so the process begins again. While it is a frustration it is one of those things beyond my control so I make do as best I can. Thankfully, a recent Vegan ACT working bee here and some friends visiting from interstate helped the cleaning process.

Apart from the weather causing extra concerns a number of new faces have appeared, which have kept me busy. it's the time of year when request to rehome begin to increase, which is hard as you cannot always say yes.



Muscles (pictured left) is a Japanese bantam rooster who moved in from the Blue Mountains. He had been adopted from a local shelter by a family new to the area, who had checked with the local council that roosters were allowed in the area. However almost immediately they began receiving numerous complaints from their neighbors. They took steps regarding the complaints, by putting Muscles into a darkened box overnight, but the council recommended re-homing him before the dispute escalated. The family were devastated and determined to find him "a home he would be able to stay in for the rest of his life". *"Although it kills myself and my family to have to give him up, I have done research and found your place to be the*

best. I was wondering if you had any room for our boy?" the request I received read. Muscles has since settled in with a flock of other bantams (boys and girls), he self-selected – I came home one day to find he had somehow got in with them and as there was no arguing and he went in with them at night I didn't interfere. If only it could always be that easy. Four other roosters – Oliver, Frankie, Puka and George (pic right) – joined us from Sydney. They had been purchased as chicks by an older man as a bit of a hobby to produce back yard eggs but turned out to be boys and the neighbours complained.



Two drakes (pictured left), who were apparently harassing some hens, also joined us rather than being put down as their human had planned. And only last weekend a little fellow (pictured right) arrived from Sydney having been born in a classroom as part of a hatching project. He was amongst three chicks a family



took in from the project but as it became evident he was a boy they set about finding him somewhere safe to go as council regulations didn't allow them to have a rooster.

In late July Animal Liberation NSW and Aussie Farms released the first-ever Australian footage of the maceration of live male chicks, filmed at one of Australia's largest hatcheries. Back in 2014 when I was one of the speakers at TEDx Canberra I spoke about how male chicks in the egg industry are macerated (ground up alive), which shocked a number of people in the audience. One or two people told me they did not believe that sort of activity took place in Australia. The footage attracted major local and international media attention and a subsequent non-violent direct action at the premises attracted additional media attention to this hidden side of the egg industry, as well as exposing the inherent cruelty of the egg industry they also managed to rescue more than 150 day-old male chicks who were scheduled for the mincer. It is encouraging that a number of people who were oblivious to this fact have subsequently sworn-off eggs. It must be remembered that for every egg-laying hen born into the Australian egg industry each year (some 12 million) a male chick is born who can't lay eggs and therefore has no commercial value – this happens whether the hens are intended to be in a cage, barn or free range system, which proves there is no such things as a “humane” egg. You can find out more on this at www.animal-lib.org.au/campaigns/animals-for-food/eggs

The advent of spring means festival time is upon us. This Sunday October sees the sixth edition of the Living Green Festival take place in Canberra. As per the past few years I'm putting together a photo exhibition to highlight the work of A Poultry Place, with the emphasis this year being on the egg industry and those who have been rescued from it. In addition I have the honour of acting a MC for the first three hours of this year's Festival. I've never been an MC before and looking forward to it. Hope to catch up with many people there. For more details visit www.livinggreenfestival.com

Just before the Living Green Festival (LGF) I get the chance to discuss a topic dear to me – Sustainable Activism, (avoiding burnout) with other activists attending the fourth Institute for Critical Animal Studies Oceania conference, which is taking place at University of Canberra in the two days prior to the LGF. It will be the fifth time this year I have got to speak on this topic, which is especially pleasing as it means more and more activists are willing to discuss this once rarely mentioned impact activism can have on one's life. I recently succeeded in getting my work colleagues from across Australia to incorporate this in our day-to-day work.

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