



**UPDATE
JUNE 2018**

Wow the end of June already – amazing how quickly the year is going. The weather has finally turned and we are now experiencing frosts and below zero night temperatures, which come this time of year. Of course it also brings the heartbreaking sight when travelling about of seeing sheep with lambs at foot as for some godforsaken reason the onset of winter is also lamb season. The drought continues its grip – average rainfall to this time of the year is 426mm, this time last year we had got 300mm, this year so far we have only received 158mm there's nothing I can do about that of course.

The past month or so has been busier than usual. May was International Respect For Chickens Month and like previous years, I posted on the sanctuary's facebook page daily about some of the stories of the residents here and the way their kin are treated by humans – again it was a success with the posts reaching almost 40,000 people and the posts being shared 395 times. International Respect for Chickens Month, was launched in 2005 by US-based organisation United Poultry Concerns to celebrate chickens throughout the world and protest the bleakness of their lives in farming operations. Since joining facebook in 2011 throughout the month of May I have published posts highlighting some of the stories of the residents here at A Poultry Place. The posts are intended for people to share among their family, friends and work colleagues in an attempt to encourage them to rethink their attitude towards, and use of, chickens. I'm so glad to see each year that more organisations and activists here in Australia are getting behind the idea.

The crash survivors mentioned last month are doing well. As expected a number did not make it to celebrate their two month birthday. The survivors are enjoying life here, especially when the winter sun is out (see pic right). Sadly, the thousands of their brothers and sisters who survived and were reloaded onto another truck have by now been slaughtered and become someone's roast chicken.

The past month brought another opportunity to help out some of the exploited. A Poultry Place lent support to our good friends at NSW Hen Rescue to be part of a



rescue of unwanted hens from a free range farm – yeap even those hens used in what many believe to be the most “humane” egg producing industries are discarded (remembering they have already lost brothers) . All up 218 hens were rescued rather than being sent to slaughter, the farmer surrendering them and we’ve managed to rehome most of them to places where they can live out the rest of their lives without the expectation of having to “pay their way” by laying an egg each day. In the overall scheme of things it’s a small effort but echoing the idea of The Starfish Story (google that if you don’t know what I am talking about) it makes a difference to the individuals saved.



Another amazing effort I was privileged to be witness to in recent weeks was the story of Gary the goose (pic right), who is now known as Gerty. Here’s the story:

“Do you take geese? I raised a baby geese since he was born due to hunters killing mother I found her and looked after her I just don’t have the room no more as she is big now” The guy who rescued Gerty lived in suburbia and wanted Gerty to be with her own kind: *“I just think she needs bigger room I just couldn’t leave her out there by herself she was tiny and people shot the mum”*. Gerty has settled in nicely and while the plan was for her to bond with some other recently arrived geese, who were evicted from a Sydney home after complaints to a local council, she has actually taken up residence with a flock of ducks.



Yet for every nice person there are many more morons like the person who contacted me on a Friday with this: *“live in a shared house and we had a tenant who left 4 hens and one rooster at the house and is refusing to buy feed/collect or find a new home. We have to be moved out by Sunday/Monday”* because they were too busy packing and moving I was expected to drive up to Sydney and collect them because I have so much free time on my hands and then this: *“Hello, I feel awful even doing this but I can’t cope with our rooster anymore. He only recently has gotten so loud at all times of the day. Early morning. During the day. Even just before night. It’s driving us and our neighbours crazy but we don’t want to give it to someone who won’t look after him (or kill him). Are you able to help?”* And this: *“I have two isa brown type chickens that I would like to find a home for. I have had them for over 4 years in the back yard, one is moulting quite a bit at the moment so looks a bit scruffy but hey have had a great time in the yard together. I am wanting to pass them on as I am sick of the poo on the deck and the destruction of the back yard, even after I opened up the veggie garden to them.”* All sadly examples of people viewing chickens as commodities.

TO VISIT A POULTRY PLACE EMAIL freechook@bigpond.com

**DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED AND CAN BE SENT TO BEDE CARMODY
PO BOX 976 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608 OR DIRECTLY DEPOSITED INTO THE
FOLLOWING BANK ACCOUNT BSB 012925 ACCOUNT 484228991**

KEEP UP TO DATE VIA FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/apoultryplace