

Last week marked 15 years of me living hands on with the rescued and unwanted, when I moved from Sydney to Atchin Tan, a sanctuary operated by some friends. I had the day off from the paying gig, which meant I could mark the anniversary properly and I spent a pleasant day outdoors in the company of many current residents, while also remembering those who have left us.

Of course over those years I have got to see first-hand the good and bad sides of humanity. During the past couple of months I have seen a lot of good and thought with this update I would let some of the amazing people I have encountered tell you their stories, beginning with this message

received in early August, from a woman called Linda: *Hi Bede, On the internet I found your poultry rescue organisation A Poultry Place. I am hoping you can help me. Last week I was on holiday in Coffs Harbour, and wanted to do some bush walking in one of the National Parks there, in quite a remote location. When I got to the parking area, I found 3 starving chickens, who immediately ran towards me and started begging for food. They were extremely tame, and I ended up catching them, and taking them with me. I suspect they were kids pets that grew too large, and were then dumped in the National Park. I have taken them back to Canberra with me, but unfortunately I cannot keep them. I have tried to find them a good home, but everybody who is willing to take them only wants them for meat, or first eggs and meat in a couple of years. I am unwilling to let them go to such a home. I was wondering if you might have a spot for another 3 Isa Browns?*



These three girls (pictured above) quickly settled into life here, joining the secondary chook flock, which has evolved this year when new residents have arrived.

Rebecca had a hatching project horror story:

I've come across A Poultry Place facebook page while searching for a humane option of rehoming our 2 pet roosters. We rescued 3 chicks from a living egg project at school earlier this year (I heard that they intended drowning them if no one took them home) and unfortunately they have started showing aggressive behaviour. I don't want to keep the chickens in a small coop all day, every day and



wondering if you're in a position to take on any roosters at the moment? I've been told that the easiest way to find them a new home is to list them for 'free' on gumtree but I'm sure that they will end up in someone's soup pot if I do this."

When Rebecca and her family came down to drop off their bubs – Boost and Boston (the two boys) and Abigail (their sister) (pictured left) – they spent a little while here and the day after I got this message: *"Hi Bede, thanks so much for your time yesterday. I think you've assisted in creating a little animal rights warrior; Sofia has prepared a presentation for 'news' tomorrow. And she had me print off some photos to support it!"*

Cuddles and Chicky, were two gorgeous black Muscovy ducks who were brought down from Sydney by a young family who adopted them after they were dumped as ducklings but as they were getting bigger they needed more space, which the family could not provide. *"We want them to go to a good home where they won't become food"* they said when requesting sanctuary for these two. So these two arrived here a few days later.

Two other ducks, Peaches and Cream (pictured below) arrived last week, courtesy of Gil and Les: *"Hi Bede, I am a wildlife carer. Yesterday we had a call from one of our local vets about 2 big yellow ducks looking confused and rather lost on one of the foreshores near us. Sure enough they were easy to find and appear very confused but placid too.*



They seem to be Pekin ducks I think but are very yellow. It seemed unsafe to leave them as you could just walk up to them and pick them up and we worried about dogs and indeed incorrect human interaction. They are now back at home with us and while we do specialise in birds I am not sure we have the best place for ducks. Today, they still seem motivated to leave their outdoor pen and are happy standing or sitting in one place. I shudder to think of their background. I understand you must get many requests daily to help out for a sanctuary for such animals but I would be very grateful if you could offer advice or indeed a home for these gentle ducks."

My October has developed into something of a talkfest as I'm speaking at TEDx Canberra, the Living Green Festival (Canberra), the Animal Activist Forum (Sydney) and the Cruelty Free Festival (Sydney) on successive weekends. It is always an honour to be asked by your peers to speak at such events and when the call comes from outsiders, as it did with the TEDx event even more so. Admittedly, I didn't have any idea what TEDx was when the request came in and when I googled it I found this: "TEDxCanberra provides a place for some of Australia's leading visionaries and storytellers to speak to an energised group of thinkers, as well as to the world at large." The event, which takes place the day before the Living Green Festival, is held at the Canberra Theatre in front of 600-strong crowd, under lights and filmed, oh and I have to be up on stage for 15-18 minutes talking without any notes. So no pressure! The theme of TEDx is *Unchartered*, which the organisers believe my life at A Poultry Place definitely qualifies me for. Thankfully Sox (pictured right) has volunteered to act as my speech writing assistant as I work on preparing the various talks for these engagements. If any of you are going to be in attendance at any of these events I hope you do say hi. ●



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