

So another year draws to a close. And like those of the past it has been one of joy, sadness, happiness, anger and at times frustration. The most amazing thing about 2016 has been the weather. It has been the wettest I can recall since moving down here in 1998. We have received almost double the amount of rain we had in 2015. It has meant that things are still green in December – again I can't recall that happening previously as things usually start getting that brownish tinge in late November as the warmer weather begins to dry everything out.

The crazy weather of 2016 continues and brought another surprise one morning earlier this month when I ventured outside. The sanctuary was shrouded in fog even though it was December (see pic below left) – for a moment I thought I may have been sleeping for a few months.

Despite the year ending things haven't slowed down here – there's been a lot going on.

In November I was honoured to be asked by my gorgeous "twinny" Jessica V Bailey (left to me in pic below) to speak at the opening of The Cruelty Free Shop Canberra. The Canberra store is the fourth shopfront in her vegan empire. Jessica began The Cruelty Free Shop as an online store the same time I began A Poultry Place and we were subsequently dubbed "twins" by a mutual friend.



As usual a number of new faces have arrived including three roosters from Sydney with a typical story – they were unwanted because they don't lay eggs. They had been brought under the assumption they were hens. Here's what the person who transported them down here found when she went to collect them: "I get there and they are being kept in the garage after being picked up from their original home and one of them was tied into a green shopping bag! All day, all he could do was stick his head out whilst he was trapped in this bag, sitting in his own poop! Tied into this bag! No food or water all day either. It's bad enough they have been separated from their friends and locked in a dark garage but seriously, what kind of bloody moron would tie an animal into a bag and leave them there all day? FFS!" All three – now collectively known as Barney and his brothers – have begun to find their voices this week and settled in well to their forever home (see pic next page).

I was contacted by a woman whose daughter's preschool had a duck hatching project. She wanted to find them a good forever home and I agreed to have them come here but unfortunately when she told the school she had found a safe haven for them she was informed the ducklings had already been sent back to the farm. The woman was understandably upset and strongly lobbied the school to no longer participate in such projects.



It was a happier ending for five chicks hatched in another classroom the other side of Sydney, as they were chauffeured down here in late November by a friend to begin their lives proper (pic above right)

These bubs were the latest of the 362 beings A Poultry Place has managed to offer permanent or temporary shelter to so far this year (it's still not quite finished). All are lives who otherwise would have been terminated. I think that is a pretty good effort for a small one-man operation.

A Poultry Place is the December Charity of the Month with The Cruelty Free Shop so if you are shopping online with them this month please consider making a donation towards the running costs of the sanctuary.

Thanks for all the support and interest this year. Will be back in 2017, which sees A Poultry Place turn Sweet 16.

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