



Chooks in your backyard

will lay lovely fresh eggs for you to eat and are a fabulous way of getting rid of all your kitchen vegie scraps.

They'll help improve your garden by providing plenty of organic manure and mulch and are much more entertaining than a compost heap!

The glorious cackling sound of a triumphant, egg-laying hen signals the arrival of convenience food for yummy breakfasts, delicious puddings, cakes and pastries and its right at your back door. There are no food miles here!

Crossbred chickens make great pets for children and with a little basic training you can teach them to jump on command and take bread from your hand.

They love a chat and a cuddle and they'll soon learn to respond to chook talk when it's time for feeding or bed. You can even train them to ride around on the edge of a wheelbarrow or in the basket of your bicycle.

If you fancy collecting eggs from your chooks everyday consider a cross-bred pullet. Three to five pullets will keep a family in a regular supply of eggs.

Crossbreeds are better egg producers than their pure-bred parents; they are smaller, eat less, are cheaper to feed and are far too busy laying eggs to go broody.

The ISA Brown is a very popular hen, of French origin, and is a cross between a Rhode Island Red and Rhode Island White. The Australorp/New Hampshire is a black hen. Both breeds have a nice nature and make fantastic feathered friends for children.

If you've just finished your chook house and are ready to buy the long-awaited chooks, think twice before getting a rooster.

Roosters can be over protective of their hens and not very kid friendly. Don't forget to check with your local council. Some folks don't like being woken up by a rooster crowing loudly early in the morning – they are considered a noise polluter and are often banned from urban areas!