



Chooks in the city: Haughty Henrietta the chicken is among a trio living in Julie Biuso's urban backyard.

Photo: LIZ WILLIS.

Rise of urban chook

By LIZ WILLIS

KEEPING chickens is so much more than it's cracked up to be, food writer Julie Biuso says.

Her clucky trio moved into "five star accommodation" in her Northcote Point backyard just over a year ago and the experience has been a revelation.

Julie is a food lover who was motivated by the thought of fresh eggs. But it's the chickens themselves that captured her heart.

"They are not just there as egg machines," she says. "They're incredible to hold

Chickens rule, but stay legal

If you want to join the chicken-keeping craze there are Auckland Council rules you need to keep in mind.

The regulations vary a bit across Auckland but in most

urban areas, including North Shore, you can keep up to six chickens.

Rules about your chicken house and run also are not uniform yet.

On the Shore you cannot put them within 10m of your neighbour's house or less than 2m from any boundary without written consent from Auckland Council.

and pat. It's like stroking a cat. I find it very pleasurable.

"They have really great personalities. I can understand why kids take to them as pets."

Julie and her husband Remo are among the growing number of people keeping a few backyard chooks in urban Auckland.

The craze is celebrated in a new book, *Urban Chicks*,

by author Renee Lang and photographer Trevor Newman, featuring 55 households including the Biusos, Labour politician David Cunliffe and *Shortland Street* actress Rachel

Forman. It shares the stories of a wide variety of people keeping chooks, even in College Hill in sight of the Sky Tower.

Julie always wanted chickens but like many city slickers pictured moving to the country in order to have them.

That was until her brother who keeps animals in rural Carterton convinced her that her urban backyard had plenty of room.

So up went the posh hen house. "They have five star accommodation and they're

CONTINUED Page 2

TODAY



Mind shift

Drink drivers used to get some public sympathy, now it's "you silly sod you should have known better", a retiring road policing manager says.

P3



Freaky art

The rich imaginations of children as young as four are let loose on theatre and costume design as a build-up to the NZ Body Art Awards. Our e-edition, at northshoretimes.co.nz, has extra photos showing their vibrant works. **P4**

Heady heights

Climbing Africa's tallest mountain proves mentally and physically exhausting as a mother and daughter survive eight days together, without a break. **P5**

ONLINE

Suburbanite

Issue two of Suburbanite, a new fortnightly online magazine, is now online and is packed full of great stories and reviews. Go to suburbanite.co.nz.

Fisher&Paykel Haier Panasonic SONY PIONEER Breville KAMBROOK Electrolux Westinghouse SHARP Sunbeam Gelong dyson Russell Hobbs GEORGE FOREMAN Fisher&Paykel Haier Panasonic SONY PIONEER Breville KAMBROOK Electrolux Westinghouse SHARP Sunbeam Gelong dyson Russell Hobbs GEORGE FOREMAN



Announces the arrival of

BEKO

ONE OF EUROPE'S LARGEST AND MOST SOPHISTICATED LIFESTYLE BRANDS OF LAUNDRY AND KITCHEN APPLIANCES

THE APPLIANCE SHED WILL SELL:



BEKO
Gas and
Electrical
Cookware

BEKO Dryers
BEKO Refrigeration
BEKO Dish Washers

BEKO
Front Load
Washing
Machines



Come into the
Appliance Shed
today to view
one of Europe's
largest brands...
BEKO

Mon - Wed, Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Thursday, Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday & Holidays 10.00am - 4.00pm



APPLIANCE SHED also at
28-35 Catherine St, Henderson
and 57 Cavendish Drive, Manukau

Fisher&Paykel Haier Panasonic SONY PIONEER Breville KAMBROOK Electrolux Westinghouse SHARP Sunbeam Gelong dyson Russell Hobbs GEORGE FOREMAN Fisher&Paykel Haier Panasonic SONY PIONEER Breville KAMBROOK Electrolux Westinghouse SHARP Sunbeam Gelong dyson Russell Hobbs GEORGE FOREMAN