

BULLEEN

Expert explains cock-a-doodle-dos and don'ts

Bianca Carmona

CONSUMERS are being urged to be careful when buying chicks at markets with many ending up with more than they bargained for.

Doncaster sustainability expert Maria Ciavarella warned buyers to beware.

"It's almost guaranteed that cute little chick bought on impulse at the market will end up being a rooster," Mrs Ciavarella said.

She said people were not allowed to keep roosters in Manningham, but were in nearby Nillumbik and even in inner city Glen Eira.

"There's a caveat in Glen Eira that the rooster must be quiet, I don't understand

how that works in practice," she said.

Mrs Ciavarella who leads classes at Bulleen Art and Garden, said while hens didn't make cuddly pets, they still had plenty to offer other than fresh eggs.

"If you're sitting outside having a coffee with a biscuit, they'll hang around, hoping for some biscuit," Mrs Ciavarella said.

Mrs Ciavarella said chickens could be an integral part of a sustainable garden.

She will be holding a Backyard Chooks for Beginners class on April 30 from 6.45pm at Bulleen Art and Garden, 6 Manningham Rd, Bulleen.

Details: baag.com.au or 8850 3030.



NEED TO KNOW
BACKYARD CHOOKS IN MANNINGHAM
 ■ Maximum four hens
 ■ No roosters
 ■ Average hen lays six eggs a week

Sustainability expert Maria Ciavarella, pictured with a bantam silver laced Wyandotte, will run a chook-keeping workshop at Bulleen Art and Garden.

Picture: LAWRENCE PINDER