

Birds of feather together

FOUR new residents have moved in to Kapara aged care home in Glenelg South and proved an instant hit.

Henny Penny, Chooky Looky, Chicken Licken and Priscilla are hens that are bringing smiles to residents at the ACH Group facility as well as staff, volunteers, family and a weekly group of visiting pre-schoolers.

ACH Group is the first aged care provider in SA and the second in Australia to introduce HenPower, a creative ageing program based around creative activities, arts, social connections and keeping chooks.

HenPower was launched in the UK by charity Equal Arts in 2011 to use hen-keeping and creative activities to tackle social isolation, reduce depression and improve people's wellbeing.

Kapara's hens were installed in memory support unit Rose Cottage, thanks to the Hart family and their business PetStock, who donated and set up the hens, coop, feed and accessories.

A "name that frizzle" competition was held for the frizzle hen; residents also chose names for the ISA brown and white leghorn hens.

Kapara senior manager



WELL HELLO, LITTLE ONE – Rhonda Fitzgerald with one of her "gorgeous" chickens.

Lyn Bertram says the chickens have settled in well. "The residents just love them," she said.

"For many of them, it brings back memories of their younger days, and they really enjoy handling them and petting them, feeding and looking after them.

"The kids and families from our weekly playgroup have really enjoyed having the hens around, too."

Resident Rhonda Fitzgerald, 92, said the chickens are "gorgeous".

"You just want to pick them up and cuddle them. The chickens have brought so much joy to us all."