MEET OUR ANIMALS

Flynn & Henny or Peacock & Peahen

Currently at Diamond Forest Farm Stay we have one Peacock- Flynn and one Pea hen-Henny. The blue Peafowl (the type we have here) originally came from India but Flynn was born here on the farm and Henny came from a farm near Greenbushes.

Peafowl are large pheasants with the male – the peacock- having a beautiful tail of iridescent feathers. These tail feathers fall out every year in about January/February and they spend most of the year growing back. The large, beautiful tail is used in mating rituals when the peacock is trying to impress the pea hen so they can have baby pea chicks. The peacock will fan his tail out and rustle his feathers in the direction of the pea hen.

Young Peacocks, like Flynn, will often practice their tail display on other birds like our chickens and our turkeys. You can tell he is a young peacock because his tail doesn't get very long yet. Next year it should be much longer. Female peahens often use their shorter, grey tails in a similar way but it is more about being bossy to other birds. Peahens can be quite bossy when they want to be.

Did you know?

- Peafowl are quite good flyers and will roost at night in the highest branches of the tallest trees.
- Peacocks have a distinctive and loud cry that sounds like they are calling out 'help'. Generally it is the peacock that will call but our Henny likes to call out too.
- All peafowl will 'honk' when they are alarmed or spot a predator. First they will honk and then they make a trilling sound. When most people first hear a peacock or peahen honk they ask us if we have geese because that is exactly what they sound like.

Our Secret

Both Flynn and Henny spend most of their day with the chickens but they also like sitting on the roof of our house and visiting our cottages to see if our guests will feed them. They are quite successful in getting food from our guests. We don't mind. It keeps our peacocks happy and that means that they will stay close where we can keep watch over them.