



# Shelter from the storm

By LM

As a young Melbourne girl newly living on a farm in the Mallee I thought it would be rather wonderful to have some peacocks around – their sheer beauty entranced me. Ultimately, I was able to have a some including a peahen who laid several clutches of eggs.

Unfortunately, her habit was to lay them in a rough nest on the ground where she and they were prey to foxes, so once she started to lay we kept her in a pen and when the young emerged and could not yet fly high to roost we locked them up at night.

One night we were experiencing a heavy thunderstorm and I

remembered that I had not locked them away, so I rushed out in the rain to check if they were still there or had been lost.

As I peered into the pen my heart sank as I could only see the hen on the roost – one pair of legs - and I feared the worst – I went in closer with the torch and the hen ruffled her wings and there perched up on her body, peering out at me were several little pairs of eyes! Not only were they sheltered by her but they were absolutely linked to her. What did they get there? – warmth, protection, safety and ongoing life. They knew to go there when the weather turned rough!

## Reflection:

*So we are reminded in the gospels that Jesus says of Jerusalem – “How many times have I longed to put my arms around your people – just as hen gathers her chicks under her wings” – so He wishes to gather us up offering safety, protection and ongoing life in our stormy times. (Matt 24:37)*