

Our Friends from Down Under!

By: Dave Cooke, Spencer, Iowa



Damon picking out best White from Dave's birds



Brian looking over Dave's birds

My wife, Donna, and I were honored to have two special guests from Australia stay with us in October 2006. Damon Pownell and his Dad, Brian, came from Australia to visit us and stay with other couples of Modena breeders, Willi Richert in Kansas and Dennis Weyrauch in California. They also came to attend the International Modena Club Young Bird & Yearling Show held in Valley Center, Kansas, where they both would be judging the show.

After I picked them up at the airport and we headed back to our house 90 miles away, we had a great time visiting and listening to their Aussie accent and about their culture. This was the first time they were in the states and it was amazing how both countries have similar things and ideas. The next morning we went out for breakfast and then came back to get down to business.

I planned to take 50 Modenas to show at the IMC show that weekend so I started with the Whites and then the Bronze and Bronze Gazzi. I let them both go over each one and give there good and bad points on each bird. Damon also was video taping this and it made for a lot of good laughs and talks throughout the time.

Unfortunately, Damon came down with influenza later that day so he spent some time in bed. The next day Brian, our oldest son, Travis, and I showed Brian what Spencer, Iowa had to offer. Of course, I had to take him to our favorite coffee spot at Hardee's. There Brian gave the girls a bad time and gave them all some ribbing as to what he wanted to order. He told them he wanted a Chook sandwich and be back in fort night. It meant a chicken sandwich and he will be back in two weeks. We all had a good laugh and he fit right in with our coffee club.

On Friday morning, we began our eight-hour trip to the IMC show in Kansas. We picked up Bill Dunn about two hours away and had a good time all the way to the show. Damon and Brian had the opportunity to meet a lot of Modena breeders from around the country and meet those they had only heard about fact to face. After the show they stayed with Willi and Jean Richert and later flew to California for a stay with Dennis and Rosemary Weyrauch before leaving for home. While at Willi's and Dennis' they video taped some of their lofts and birds. Damon has the DVD completed and it is about three hours long. He is selling them for \$20.00 and will donate the funds to the International Modena Club.

If you would like to purchase a copy and support the IMC, email me at dcooke@mchsi.com or write to Dave Cooke, 220 4th Street SE, Spencer, Iowa 5130



Damon showing Dave's wife Donna how to cook an Aussie dinner



Brian & Damon with our grandkids Ashley & Trevor



Damon trying to figure out what he got himself into with all these whites hens



Damon judging the IMC show in Kansas