

Amazing Grace celebrates her 100th Birthday

Grace Goode, OAM recently celebrated her 100th birthday. The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc. welcomed her along to their meeting on 15 July 2017 to help her celebrate and thank her for the fantastic contributions she had made over many years to the bromeliad world.



Peter Cook (Secretary) and Nigel Thomson (President) present Grace with Gifts and Flowers at the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc. meeting on 15 July 2017
Photo by Ralf Schenk

On the day, Doug Cross and Len Trevor spoke about her wonderful achievements. Doug presented her with one of his own hybrids (a *Billbergia 'kipalleujah'*) which was a cross between *Billbergia 'halleujah'* and *Billbergia 'kip'*.

Billbergia 'kip' was one of Grace's 1974 hybrids which she named after one of her lovely dogs. Allan Freeman had passed this plant on to Doug many years ago



Doug Cross presenting Grace with *Billbergia 'kipalleujah'* - Photo by Ralf Schenk

Order of Australia (3)

January 26, 2004

MEDAL (OAM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Grace Margaret GOODE, Alexandra Headland, Qld. For service to horticulture through the culture and hybridisation of bromeliads.

GRACE GOODE OAM

Gracie Margaret Evans was born on the 23 July 1917 at Nambour. She was the middle child of five born to Arthur Henry Evans (1891-1970) and Ivy Ida Foxover (Oberfuchshuber)..(1892-1970)

Her early years were spent on the Maroochy River near Dunethin Rock (her beloved “Dunny Rock”) She married Albert Connor, in Nambour on 18 December 1935. Their daughter Gayle was born in 1937.

In the early 1940s she lived at Cotton Tree, then moved to Brisbane where she met her future husband Cliff Goode. They married in 1945.

By 1956 they had bought the house in Kate Street, Alexandra Headland, Qld. where Grace still lives. She was always a gardener,- roses, carnations, dahlias, orchids all sorts of flowers . By 1970 she had discovered the love of her life – bromeliads.

This started when Grace was introduced to Bromeliads by her mother who gave her a plant later identified by Olwen Ferris as Billbergia Pyramidalis Concolour. Grace was well into her 50's when she was introduced to Bromeliads and her only regret is that she hadn't found out about them earlier. One can only imagine the list of plants to her name had she had an earlier start.

(Please refer to Attachment “B” regarding plants registered under Grace’s name or named after her)

Within a few years she was travelling to conferences around the world, and became a well known hybridist. For all the work she did she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal In the 2004 Australia Day Awards

Several articles on Grace’s involvement in the Bromeliad world have been written in the past and these are still very relevant. One such article was written by Bob Reilly (with the help of Geoff Lawn and Derek Butcher) when Grace was awarded the OAM. This article was published in the BSI Journal (Volume 54 (1): 1-48). (See attachment “A”)

It is well worth repeating this article for the benefit of the newcomers to the Bromeliad world, so that they can recognise where the name “Grace” initiated in the many plants that are now worldwide and most probably in their own collection.

Recently we had the privilege of Grace attending “Sunny Broms “The 19th Australasian Bromeliad Conference”, here on the Sunshine Coast.

Our delegates appreciated her efforts to make an appearance at the Conference and gave her a standing ovation as she departed

She really enjoyed meeting up with some of her old acquaintances. We believe that at the age of 99 years and 9 months she kept her friend, Patricia up until near midnight with the odd drink of Port and some good jokes.

Another of her pastimes was rug making. She started in the late 1940s and was selling them at “Finneys” (a department store) in Brisbane . It is not known how many she made, must have been hundreds. All magnificent.



*Two (2) greats of the Bromeliad World at
Sunny Broms – 2017
Grace Goode, OAM and Chester Skotak*



You will note in the article written by Bob Reilly that Grace has been generous in contributing to fund raising efforts for other Societies and Conferences. She continued this support recently by donating one of her hand made rugs to Sunny Broms for the Auction.



After some fierce bidding among delegates, the rug was eventually sold to Len Trevor of "The Olive Branch" for AU\$450.00 . Grace is happy that it is going to a good home within the Bromeliad Family.

We really appreciated the effort made by Grace to attend our Sunny Broms Conference and her generous donation.

Today, she has slowed down, time has taken its toll. She tries, but has difficulty keeping the garden in shape, luckily Kendall helps out on a weekly basis, but the job is too big for a mere mortal!

Her wit and humour are still there, though she tends to forget the punch line to her many famous jokes. She can still get around her house, insists on staying put, and hopes to live out her life in Kate Street.

Grace had a nasty fall on Anzac Day (25th April) and was in hospital till 6 May. She has broken her cheekbone in 3 places and fractured vertebrae . She's home alone, but you know Grace, just wants to sit in the sunshine on her verandah and look out on her garden



Grace being presented with the Order of Australia Medal in 2004



Grace with our other Life Member Bob Paulsen (Dec'd)

Some further photos of Grace are at the end of this document

Compiled by Peter Cook, Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc. with input by Leonie Neil (Grace's niece), Geoff Lawn and Doug Cross

ATTACHMENT "A"

Copy of article printed in BSI Journal (Volume 54 (1): 1-48

Grace M. Goode, Order of Australia Medal Recipient

Bob Reilly

Grace Goode, an honorary trustee of the Bromeliad Society International (BSI), was awarded Order of Australia Medal (OAM), by the Australian Government, on 26 January 2004. The medal was awarded for Grace's efforts in growing and hybridising bromeliads. Such an award has never been made in connection with bromeliads before, and is very rarely made for any horticultural-related activity.

The Illawarra Bromeliad Society initiated the process for obtaining the Award for Grace, and sought the support of other Australian bromeliad societies for this endeavour. Many Australian bromeliad growers helped in preparing the extensive documentation needed to support Grace's nomination.

The OAM is the latest recognition of Grace's efforts in growing and, in particular, hybridising bromeliads. For example, Grace is also an honorary trustee of The Cryptanthus Society and has been elected a life member of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, Cairns Bromeliad Society, Bromeliad Society of Queensland, and the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society.

Most people know Grace through her hybrids. She started hybridising in the early 1970s, largely in response to the very limited number of bromeliads available then in Australia. Initially, she concentrated on neoregelias. Some of her earlier hybrids are: 'Sheer Joy,' 'little Joy' 'Blackie,' 'Red Plate' and the well known 'Amazing Grace'. Her best known hybrid is probably 'Charm' which is a cross between *Neoregelia marmorata* and *N chlorosticta*. As a matter of interest, Grace considers Charm is exactly the plant she was trying to produce from this cross, as it combines the form (conformation) of *N marmorata* and the colouration of *N chlorosticta*.

Another major area of hybridisation activity has been with cryptanthus. Some of her early hybrids are: 'Misty Charm. Misty Dawn. Misty Glow, and 'Misty Flame.' Bob Whitman brought many of Grace's cryptanthus hybrids to the United States of America (USA). They included: 'Melanie,' 'Seven Veils,' 'Black Mood: 'Hells Bells,' and 'Spellbound'. She also sent hybrid cryptanthus seed to the USA, from which have been produced plants such as: 'Fond Memory: Happy Thoughts,' 'Texas Star' and 'Crown Jewels'.

Grace has produced over 800 named hybrids. As well as neoregelia and cryptanthus hybrids, she has produced aechmea, billbergia, nidularium, and tillandsia hybrids. She has also made several bigeneric hybrids, with perhaps the best ones being X *Niduregeilas* 'Something Special' and 'Vision Splendid:

At 86 years old, Grace is still actively producing hybrids. Recent, outstanding neoregelia hybrids include: 'Amen,' 'Africa,' 'Alley Cat', Mandela and 'One and Only.' Grace has been generous with financial and other contributions (such as her hand-made rugs used as raffle prizes), to help fund activities such as conferences, undertaken by various Australian and overseas bromeliad societies

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From my viewpoint though, I consider one of Grace's greatest contributions over the last 30 years to be the support and friendship she has given(and continues to give) to bromeliad growers throughout the world. Many Australian collectors, including myself, started their bromeliad (especially neoregelia) collections with plants and advice from Grace. On behalf of the many people bitten with the bromeliad "bug", I thank Grace for her past efforts, and wish her many more productive years to come.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Derek Butcher and Geoff Lawn for their help *in* preparing this article

ATTACHMENT "B"

The following information was supplied by Geoff Lawn in 2017 giving instructions on how to search the BSI Register to find entries relating to Grace Goode

Go to the online BCR home page: <http://registry.bsi.org>

1. **For full list of Grace Goode's registered cultivars.** Click on Advanced Search: at top (2nd. from left). In the breeder box, type in Goode. Below that, the software has a default setting of quantity 500, so override that by clicking, under "Max Results", the radio button of 1500. Then click on "Search". Up come 722 cultivars, each entry of which can be clicked upon for full details. It is known that many more, possibly several hundred, remain unregistered as it all became too hard for Grace in her latter breeding years (up to about age 85), particularly mini Neos. Grace did send me a long list of new mini Neos around 2005, with parentages, and we have been working on them ever since, trying to locate specimen photographs to get them registered. Often during her breeding years, other growers registered on her behalf, as Grace was not computer-savvy and electronic details became the way to go, no longer snail mail and postcard prints.

2A--**List of cultivars named after her.** On the BCR home page, lower half, there is the general Search. In the Box, type in Grace, then click on "name", then click on Search--up come 35 cultivar names. Not all are actually "named after" Grace--on occasions we had to resolve duplicated cultivar name issues by different breeders with different crosses, so prefixing with "Grace's" Or "Goode's" resolved the problems. Some other registered hybrids with the word "Grace" in them were named for different reasons, not after Grace Goode.

2B-**List of Cultivars named after her.** Same as Step 2A but substitute the word Goode--up come 30 names. Same issues as 2B . Of course, there will be a lot of overlap between the Lists 1, 2, & 3, particularly between 2 & 3. A few Grace simply named on behalf of her friend the late George Anderson of New Orleans who bred them. The BCR software doesn't make the distinction between breeder and cultivar namer, both appear in the same data field.

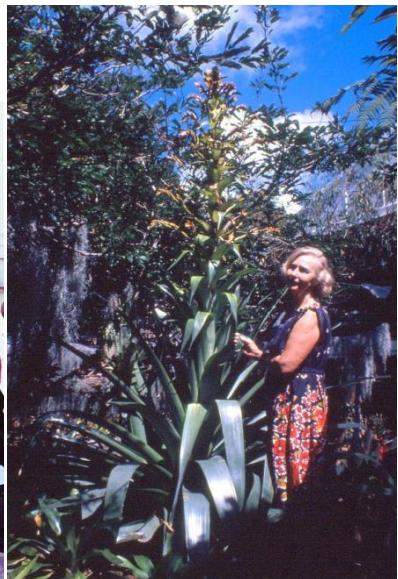
3. **If you want to find out who specifically named their hybrid, or an unknown hybrid after Grace,** I have run through all entries in lists 2 & 3 and have come up with :

Aechmea 'Grace's Blue'--Derek Butcher
Alcantarea 'Grace'--Arno King
Billbergia 'Super Grace' --Clyde Wasley
Cryptanthus 'Grace'--Fred Sparrow
Cryptanthus 'Grace Goode'--Doug Cross
Neoregelia 'Airs and Graces'--Arnold James
Neoregelia 'Bob & Grace'--Robert Larnach
Neoregelia 'Goode for Grace' --R. L Frazier
Neoregelia 'Grace Goode'--Olwen Ferris.
Neoregelia' Grace Goode Girl'--Shane Zaghini
Vriesea 'Grace Goode OAM'--Jack Koning.

There are several others but the namers are unknown:

Billbergia 'Grace Goode'
Billbergia 'Magic Grace'
Neoregelia 'Golden Grace'
Vriesea 'Grace Goode'

SOME PHOTOS OF GRACE GOODE OAM





SOME PHOTOS OF PLANTS REGISTERED BY GRACE

(Photos supplied by Cheryl Basic)



Neo Lavish



Neo Homage



Neo Because



Neo Sweet Reward



Neo Shep



Neo Roseberry



Neo Rise & Shine