

AMAZING GRACE CELEBRATES HER 102nd BIRTHDAY IN JULY

Grace Goode, OAM will celebrate her 102nd birthday in July this year. The Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society Inc. wish her all the best and thank her for the fantastic contributions she had made over many years to the bromeliad world.

Grace was born on the 23 July 1917 at Nambour and has spent most of her life on the Sunshine Coast. 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.

Within a few years she was travelling to conferences around the world, and became a well known hybridist.

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 chlorostricta*. 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 chlorostricta*.

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 close to 1000 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 Niduregelias* 'Something Special' and 'Vision Splendid:

Well into her later years Grace was still actively producing hybrids. Some outstanding neoregelia hybrids include: 'Amen, 'Africa,' 'Alley Cat', 'Mandela and 'One and Only.'

In the 2004 Australia Day Awards, Grace was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in recognition of her efforts in growing and, in particular, hybridising bromeliads. Grace is also an honorary trustee of The Bromeliad Society International as well as The Cryptanthus Society and is a life member of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, Cairns Bromeliad Society, Bromeliad Society of Queensland, and the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society.

In the last few years her health has started to fade and she now lives in a nursing unit on the Sunshine Coast



Grace being presented with her OAM in 2004



Grace with other world renowned hybridist Chester Skotak at the 2017 SunnyBroms Conference

SOME PHOTOS OF PLANTS REGISTERED BY GRACE

(Photos supplied by Cheryl Basic)



Neo. Because



Neo Lavish



Neo Roseberry



Neo. Rise and Shine



Neo. Shep



Neo. Sweet Reward