



Helen Richards: Seasonal Australian Terrestrial Orchids.

I joined ANOS Vic in 1974 when I heard of their existence, with the desire to go out in the field with people who could tell me about the orchids. I had no idea that people actually grew them. At my second meeting I was given a pot of greenhoods, so was set on the journey of learning how to cultivate Australian terrestrial orchids. My aim has been to understand the growth requirements of the various species, how to propagate them and then share that knowledge. I have learned a lot in those 45 years, including never to be complacent. In that time I have had a shadehouse in four different areas. My terrestrials have been housed in their current house at Yarra Glen, Victoria for 20 years.

I am a co-author of the ANOS Vic cultivation book, *Cultivation of Australian Native Orchids*, which I describe as the A-Z of how to grow Australian orchids. I am always pleased to pass on what I have learned to anyone who is interested in conserving our beautiful flora by cultivation.

Australian Terrestrial Orchid Workshop

I shall be describing in reasonable detail what mix I use for my orchids, where I grow them, their light and watering requirements and their propagation, explaining the reasons for my decisions.

The purpose of the workshop in my mind is to bring together people who are cultivating Australian terrestrial orchids to pool their ideas and speak of their experiences, good and bad. I hope new and potential growers will also attend. Neil Anderton and I have been invited to lead this workshop and we shall speak of our experiences. I am strictly what I call a 'back yard grower', However I have assisted botanists for many years by growing on material for them which has led to my extensive botanically important collection.