

## **Neil Anderton**

Neil retired in 2007 after spending his working life as a chemist, the last 34 years working in the CSIRO Division of Animal Health, researching poisonous plants, and toxic plant associated fungi and bacteria responsible for livestock deaths in Australia. In the late 1990's Neil became involved with the Friends of Inverleigh Flora and Fauna Reserve. During this time his interest in orchids grew, and he joined Geelong ANOS in late 2005 and ANOS Victoria in early 2006. This interest rapidly became a passion, and Neil became heavily involved in the Terrestrial Orchid Study Group, Conservation Group, and the Terrestrial Seed Propagation Group, where he learnt how to germinate orchids from seed both asymbiotically (without the mycorrhizal fungi) and symbiotically (with the fungi). On his retirement in 2007, Neil became more active in field conservation and orchid monitoring with Department of Sustainability and Environment, and, in 2008, became an Orchid Conservation Volunteer at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, utilising the skills learnt at the ANOS Victoria Terrestrial Seed Group to grow endangered orchids for reintroduction into the wild. Neil sees his volunteer work as giving back to the environment for the enjoyment he receives from orchids and wandering through the wonderful Australian bush.