

OMAN BOTANIC GARDEN VISIT NOVEMBER 2015

Dermot Molloy – Royal Melbourne
Botanic

David Hancock- Natural Area Perth.

Purpose of visit

- ▣ Reciprocate visit by OBG staff in 2013
- ▣ Assist with propagation issues
- ▣ Investigate restoration issues.
- ▣ Promote IPPS & SERA - Goodwill
- ▣ Experience culture

An extraordinary vision





Mission

- ▣ The biggest botanic garden in the region.
- ▣ World class centre for plant fun, research, learning & conservation.
- ▣ To celebrate and protect the unique plants of Oman and their connections to the people

An immense experience

- ▣ Visitors will experience all of Omans natural habitats in one site
- ▣ Beautiful Wadis, the fog forests of Dhofar, the baking sand desert, unique Juniper forests and the salty Sabka.
- ▣ Guests will explore 2 giant biome enclosures, recreating unique climates, ride on land trains and discover age old Omani traditions and skills, buy plants, enjoy fine foods.

Progress to date.

- ▣ Substantial nursery established.
- ▣ Pioneering propagation
- ▣ Over 300,000 plants, many in advanced stages
- ▣ Large scale salvaging undertaken
- ▣ Seed bank and herbarium established.
- ▣ Final designs complete and tenders for construction to be let early new year.

Challenges

- ▣ No horticulture industry
- ▣ Inexperienced staff
- ▣ Centralised fiscal control
- ▣ Searing heat for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year
- ▣ Low rainfall (Last rain Muscat Feb 2014)
- ▣ Water, water, water.
- ▣ Cultural observances
- ▣ Little community appreciation of biodiversity values and environmental impacts.

















AzA3









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Thanks.

