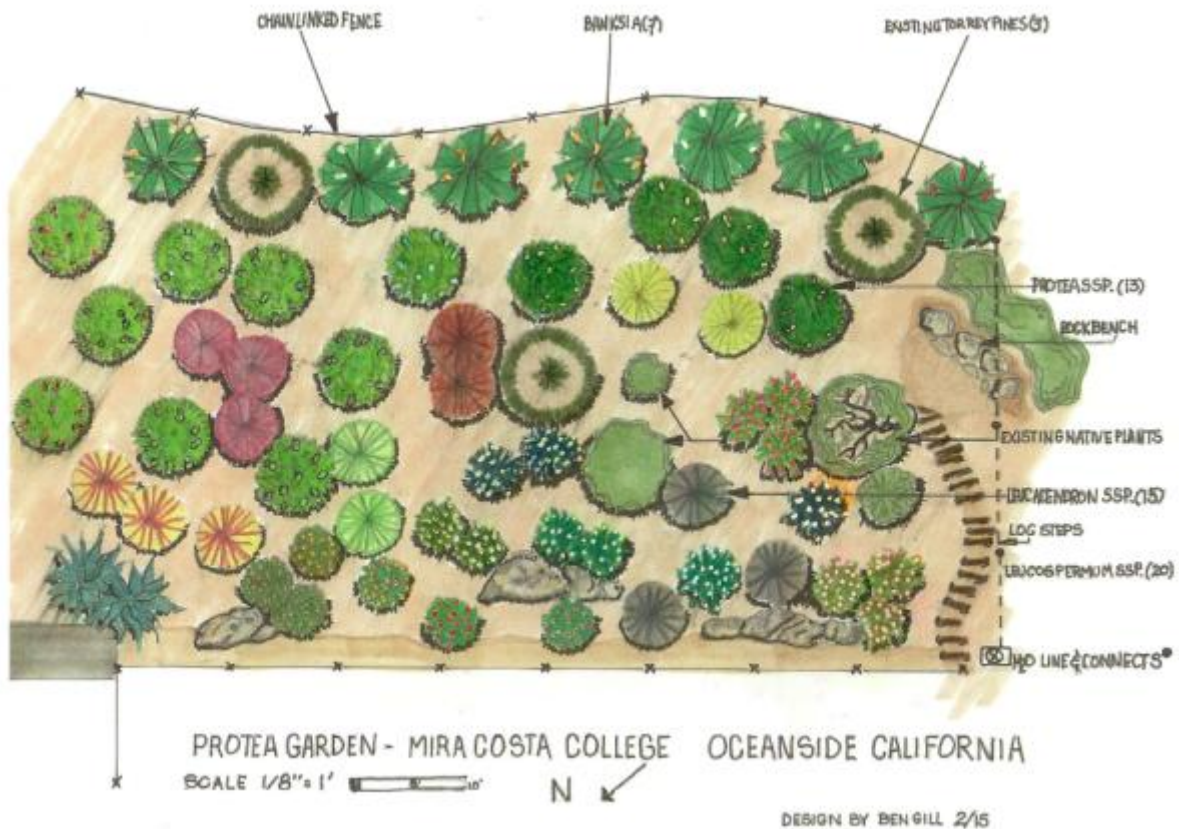


**Protea Garden Project
Mira Costa College
Oceanside, California
Spring 2015**

By Ben Gill

Plan, develop and plant a Demonstration Garden at the Horticultural area of the Oceanside campus. We envision the planting of a general representation of the Proteaceae family of perennial flowers used in landscape and commercial cut flower production.

Irrigation will be supplied by a drip system. Composted materials from local sources will be used to amend the soils and mulch. Labor will be provided by students. Plant material will be obtained at no cost from members of the California Protea Association. Additional plants used in the garden will come from those propagated and grown by the Horticulture Department.



The following plants will be incorporated into the garden:

Along the upper fence section will be Banksia, a native species of Australia. The size of these plants can range from shrubs to trees. Shrubs can be 6 to 12 feet wide and a height of 10 to 15 feet. Tree species can reach 60 feet in nature.

The colors of the Banksia flowers range from yellow, shades of orange, reds, greens and silver. The leaves have a rick-rack appearance with some having very pointed margins. The bloom time of Banksia can extend throughout the year with cones, flowers and seedpods, thus creating interesting and unusual floral visuals.

Moving down the hill into the center section of the project, the design will blend Proteas and Leucadendrons.

Proteas are mostly shrubs with flowers that are unique to the plant world. A plant with blooms that look and feel like feathers adorn these leathery leafed natives of South Africa. Proteas generally have a size of 7 to 10 feet and a diameter of 5 to 7 feet. All the colors of an artist's pallet can be seen in these blooms. Reds and pinks prevail in many but peach, green, silver and white are also found in many species.

With these exotic flowers, one may find blooms throughout the year; but the primary the season for blooming will be autumn through spring. There are some summer bloomers that will be planted to keep the interest of viewers.

Leucadendron, a multicolored foliage plant will be interplanted among the Proteas to bridge the transition from larger plants to smaller shrubs.

Leucadendrons are sometimes called the "sleeping giants" of cut floral foliages, and they will add color, texture and style to the garden design. These plants were originally from the South African Veld, but they have been hybridized and crossed to give beautiful bicolor and tricolored foliages.

When the size of these shrubs reach 4 by 4 feet wide, to 8 by 5 feet high. One can use them in many situations, there are even as trees!

Once again the colors can be striking! Reds, burgundy, intense yellows, vibrant pinks, creams, silver greens and orange. Most of these colors are visible in the spring as are many of nature's beauties.

As we continue down to the foot of the embankment, relocated boulders will hopefully be embedded to enhance the overall look of the garden.

Leucospermums and additional Leucadendron will finish the garden along the lower walkway.

Leucospermums or pincushions, as they are commonly called, will provide a colorful spring show again, these South African natives reach 3 to 5 feet wide by 3 to 4 feet high. Like ornaments on a tree they will explode in yellows, oranges, reds, pinks, corals, and combinations of all the above. Averaging 70 or more blooms per bush, the grounds will vibrate with color.

Botanical names on signs will complete the garden so viewers will learn about the size at maturity these plants can achieve.

We can include a brief cultural care sign and a reference to other websites for information. The Garden will be open to the public for viewing as well as a learning site for future horticultural students.