Jolendale Park – Alexandra

Jolendale Park is a 6-hectare semi-arid woodland situated 238 metres above sea level on a schist rocky outcrop at Bridge Hill above Alexandra Township in Central Otago. The name derives from “jol” for Jolyon and “en” for Enny (Manning), a dedicated couple who began experimenting with trees especially selected for drought and/or frost hardiness on this rocky outcrop since 1960. It is now established woodland the Manning’s bequeathed to the community through a QE11 covenant in 2004. The woodland is managed by the Jolendale Park Charitable Trust. It is a place of quiet reflection, with informal tracks winding through the woodland and schist outcrops with evidence of Moa caves and gold sluicing from early days of European settlement. The Trust are honoured to continue the inspired work of Jolyon and Enny Manning. Jolyon Manning sadly passed away earlier in 2018. Enny continues to live adjacent the woodland and is an active member of the Trust.

Clachanburn ★★★★★ – Maniototo

Clachanburn is a 2ha country garden set in the stark beauty of the Maniototo. The garden was designed encompassing of a natural creek, which was in the paddock when Jane Falconer arrived over 40 years ago. She was fully aware to maximise the view out into the plain and the Kakanui mountains beyond, that an open space in front of the house was important. Her late husband Charles built two ponds, moved the fences six times and insisted that rock work and bridges had to be substantial, to cope with rain and thunderstorms when the creek became a torrent. This is a very harsh climate with temperature variations exceeding 35 in summer to minus 20 in winter and our average rainfall being between 350-400mm but now enhanced by irrigation in summer. It has been no easy task to establish a garden here, but the garden you see today is now mature with beautiful trees and shrubs, a wide variety of bulbs, perennials, irises, paeonies and roses for family and visitors to enjoy.

Cambrian Common Forest – Cambrian

Bob de Berry has named his forest ‘The Cambrian Common Forest’ as he believes it belongs to everyone, and is best described as "a work in progress". It was an old 30 acre mining lease at the head of the Welsh settlement of Cambrian. Some trees were planted in the day, but most have been planted in the last 40 years.

It is an informal arboretum of mostly exotic deciduous trees, planted as a foil to the barren and treeless landscape of Central Otago, which has its own natural beauty! The property exemplifies the seasons of Central and hopefully will put on a good display of Autumn colours, including a floral display of pink / red colchicums.
Jo’s Wakelin Garden – Cromwell

Jo Wakelin says endeavouring to garden in a windy, stoney desert with hordes of rabbits can be a challenge! This small country garden is situated on the Pisa Flats, with the Pisa and Dunstan Ranges towering above. Established with no irrigation, this climatically appropriate garden relies on a meagre annual rainfall of 250-400mm.

By using a palette of both local native plants and those from other parts of the world with similar climates, this garden shows it is possible to landscape successfully in a place with frosty winters, scorching dry summers, and no summer irrigation.

Alpha Burn Station – Wanaka

Allanah and Duncan McRae’s Alpha Burn Station garden is a 3 acre country garden surrounding a century old homestead. Established trees, shrubs, rhododendrons and woodland under plantings with a steam flowing through that fills 2 ponds. This garden also features a large vegetable garden and orchard.

Coe Garden – Wanaka

John and Kate Coe’s garden is surrounded by Lake Wanaka’s snow-capped mountains this 30 year old, one hectare garden is full of perennials and trees showing Central Otago autumn colours.

The owners created the garden while owning the local plant nursery allowing for a good collection of plants which survive in our cold winters.

Garden Gillespie – Wanaka

Jan and Allan Gillespie say their garden is a simple country garden. It has been created around the existing natural vegetation and the original contours of the landscape. Situated on a working deer farm, the garden is 10 years old and hosts many family activities. We enjoy the view of the surrounding area and have designed the garden to retain that view. They look forward to developing the garden further as time allows.
Chantecler ★★★★★ – Queenstown

Chantecler is the 12 acre garden of Mike and Maureen Henry, situated in the heart of the Wakatipu Basin, Queenstown. Covering 12 acres, the garden has many aspects, English, Formal, Mediterranean, Asian, NZ native, and a Meadow garden where hopefully all the wildflowers will still be blooming. There are many mature deciduous trees such as Claret & Golden Ash, Pin Oak, Liquid Amber Worplesdon, English Beech, Birch, Mountain Ash and Oaks amongst others – they should all have their autumn hues.

Lake Hayes Homestead – Lake Hayes

Lake Hayes Homestead is the home of Kirsty Mactaggart and Justin Crane. The beautiful Homestead was built in 1906 and renovated over the last three years in the original style. The property has some of NZ’s oldest heritage trees with the entrance lined by giant Sequoia trees over 100 years old. The garden has old roses, lavender and wildflowers, a large orchard and, vegetable garden. The open views across Lake Hayes with the Crown Range as its backdrop will be spectacular in Autumn.

Peony Garden – Lake Hayes

The Peony Garden of Ursula and Andrew Davis at the head of Lake Hayes was first planted in 1981 by Bruce and Dorothy Hamilton who ran as a successful herbaceous and tree peony nursery for 19 years. Bruce brought in many Peonies, Tree Peonies and specimen trees from America which are still growing here today. More recently Ursula and Andrew Davis purchased the property 9 years ago and enjoy living here with their three children and Springer Spaniel, Polly. Ursula is the main gardener with help from Andrew who is her chief picker upper and the kids which are often wrangled into chopping back peonies and various other garden jobs. The garden is at its best in Spring with thousands of Bluebells, Daffodils, Trilliums and Tulips followed by the Peonies flowering in November and December along with Azaleas and Rhododendrons. There is also an extensive woodland area filled with an amazing variety of woodland plants. In Autumn the established trees provide vibrant autumnal colours.

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