More Goulburn Valley residents than ever before are paying close attention to their water use and making changes where possible to conserve our most precious resource. There is growing recognition that now is the time to act if we are to successfully protect our water for future generations.

With over half of GVW’s domestic supply used outside the home, the garden is a great place to start to make a significant change. Waterwise gardening is about working smarter, not harder, as it not only saves water but can be very low maintenance as well. With smaller lawn areas, effective use of mulching and landscaping, and a properly designed irrigation system, considering waterwise principles in garden design can also save time and money.

Many GVW customers are already making smart choices when selecting plants for new and existing gardens. They realise that being waterwise in the garden doesn’t mean a compromise on having a beautiful garden. GVW is proud to be part of the changing trend and agree that the garden is a great place to start when conserving water at home, school and work.

In the GVW Waterwise Display Garden, three popular and relevant garden styles for the Goulburn Valley region have been highlighted; a native garden, a cottage garden and a succulent garden. This will hopefully provide GVW customers and visitors with the inspiration to develop their own gardens with the waterwise message in mind.
### Slender Mat Rush

**[Lomandra hystrix]**

This species grows naturally in Queensland and New South Wales. Growing 1-1.5m high it will tolerate full sun or heavy shade. *Hystrix* is one of the most shade tolerant of all lomandra species. Flowering in spring and summer with openly arranged yellow flowers amongst, and slightly above, the foliage. It is frost tolerant and has low water requirements once established. Fertilise with slow release fertiliser in spring and autumn. Trim foliage to approx 20cm above the ground every 2-3 years if required.

### Wax Flower: Bournda Gold

**[Philotheca myoporoides ‘Bournda Gold’]**

A compact, bushy shrub growing to 1m x 1m, this lovely plant features beautiful gold and green variegated aromatic foliage. Pink flower buds appear during winter and open to white star shaped flowers in spring. It prefers a sunny position in well drained soil. Prune after flowering and fertilise with slow release fertiliser. It has medium frost tolerance and low water requirements once established.

### Native Rosemary

**[Westringia ‘Wynyabbie Gem’ nana]**

A hardy, butterfly attracting evergreen shrub growing 60cm x 60cm. Light mauve flowers are produced throughout the year on attractive grey-green foliage. Native Rosemary prefers a sunny or partly shaded position and will tolerate frost, drought and coastal conditions. Prune regularly to maintain shape and fertilise annually with a slow release fertiliser. Very low water requirements once established.

### Dwarf Flax Lily

**[Dianella revoluta ‘Little Rev’]**

This is a very hardy, clump forming evergreen perennial with sword shaped upright blue-grey foliage and soft blue flowers in spring, followed by attractive purple berries. Growing to approximately 30–40cm in height, it is very adaptable to soil type. Grows well in full sun or part shade, fertilise in spring with an organic fertiliser. Exhibits excellent drought and frost tolerance and requires little maintenance or water once established.
A neat, compact shrub with grey-green foliage and yellow flowers in spring, that grows approximately 1m x 1m. Plant in full sun or part shade position, in well-drained soil. It will tolerate frosts and extended dry periods once established. Prune lightly after flowering to maintain shape and fertilise with a slow release fertiliser in spring.

A fast growing dense groundcover/mounding perennial, with rich green foliage and a profusion of dainty mauve fan shaped flowers occurring in spring/summer. Plant in full sun position in well drained soil. Resents hard pruning and has low water requirements once established.

This is a showy, spreading groundcover to approximately 0.3m x 2m. Lovely grey/green foliage with bright red tubular flowers appear from winter through to spring. It is tolerant of poor soils, frost, drought and shade. Requires little water or maintenance once established.

This compact correa has prolific deep pink bell flowers and will add colour to the garden over the winter period. Growing 30-50cm high it prefers a position in full sun to part shade in most well drained soils. Plants will benefit from an annual tip prune and an application of slow release low phosphorus fertiliser.

This is an improved form of longifolia producing fine leaves, growing to a height of 50-60cm. Its architectural features are complimented by attractive yellow flowers in spring. A tough, hardy and reliable plant, it will grow in either full sun or shade and is drought and frost tolerant.
Natural landscaping, or native gardening, is the use of native plants, including trees, shrubs, groundcover and grasses which are indigenous to the geographic area of the garden. With the right plant choice, native gardens can be a lush and attractive example of a waterwise garden. These days there are many native plants that look great while needing minimal amounts of water.

The Goulburn Valley Water Native Garden incorporates a range of plants that compliment the fountain and create an interesting modern style of garden. These plants also attract birds. They have been grouped into zones, so no plants will be over or under watered, ensuring the most efficient use of water possible.

Succulent plants, also known as succulents or fat plants, are water-retaining plants adapted to arid climate or soil conditions. Succulent plants store water in their leaves, stems and/or roots. The storage of water often gives succulent plants a more swollen or fleshy appearance than other plants.

The Goulburn Valley Water Succulent Garden showcases interesting ways to use some of these good looking plants, including a raised gravel mound featuring interesting sculptures. It reintroduces old favourites to a modern garden.

Historically Cottage Gardens were small and found in the gardens of ordinary people with little money and little leisure time. This was in contrast to formal gardens which originated in palaces and grand country houses in England. Cottage gardens were brimming with colour, and flowers were admired and appreciated unlike those in a formal garden.

The Goulburn Valley Water Cottage Garden incorporates pretty flowering plants that, once established, will require minimal maintenance and have low water requirements. They have been selected from a range of plants suited to low rainfall climates and have special water conservation features. Some of the major plant groups used in a Cottage Garden include edging or border plants, perennials, climbing plants and evergreen shrubs.
The bottle tree is a small to medium sized tree which may reach 18-20m in height, although it is usually much smaller in cultivation in cooler areas. The bottle shaped trunk may start to be noticeable around 5-8yrs of age. It tolerates a range of soil types and is hardy in a range of climates although it may be slow growing. Fertilise in spring. Mulch well to suppress weeds and conserve soil moisture. It prefers a well drained soil in a full sun, open position.

Moon Bay is an extremely hardy evergreen shrub with a compact growth habit to around 75cm in height. The foliage changes colour throughout the seasons. It is an ideal accent plant for borders and mass planting where colour contrast is required. It is frost hardy and prefers fertile, well drained soil in full sun.

This magnificent iceberg form is exactly like its parent in every way except colour. It has apple green foliage with deep velvet burgundy flowers and a sweet apple fragrance. It is quite thorn free on new stems. Highly disease resistant with low water requirements once established.
This is a very hardy, clump forming perennial with broad grass-like foliage growing 40cm high. Long flowering from spring through to late summer, the lilac, star shaped flowers provide a prolific display. Tulbaghias have low maintenance requirements, and once established are very dry tolerant. Apply a slow release fertiliser in spring. Pruning generally not required.

The silky, silvery leaves make this a great plant for a hot, dry spot. It has masses of white flowers in spring and summer. Growing approximately 60cm high x 1m wide it is a very hardy and drought tolerant plant preferring a position in full sun. It will adapt to most soil conditions except boggy. A light trim to maintain shape is usually all that is required.

An incredible long flowering, small growing hybrid, it has an elegant leaf form which continues to throw up spears of shiny blood red flowers during summer, autumn and winter, up to 10 months of the year. Perfect as a bedding plant, planted en-masse or grown in containers. Grow in a sunny or semi-shade position with good drainage. Once established it has moderate frost tolerance, high rain tolerance and will tolerate very hot conditions growing to approximately 30cm x 30cm.

Numerous dainty flowers appear in late summer/early autumn. A beautiful smaller growing Aloe hybrid with a clumping habit, growing 20cm x 12cm. Best grown as a pot specimen but also suitable for mass plantings or borders. It prefers a semi-shaded position but will tolerate full sun if given protection.
A distinctive shrub with an appealing compact, mound like form to around 50cm in height, Spurge is smothered in masses of lime green, flower-like bracts in late winter to spring. Ideal for sunny positions in moist, well drained soil and is frost hardy. Prune back spent flower-heads to maintain tidy appearance taking care to wear gloves, as the sap can be irritating to skin and eyes. Feed with a slow release fertiliser in spring.

An evergreen perennial which produces stunning rosettes of lance shaped foliage with rough but not sharp edges. As the plant matures slender red flower stems rise high above the foliage bearing clusters of bright green flowers surrounded by red bracts. Grow in a sunny position with good drainage. Once established it is very hardy, well able to withstand heat, drought, wind and frost conditions. Mexican Lily is a minimal care plant ideal for both container and garden plantings, growing to approximately 1m x 1.5m.

A beautiful species with stiff, deep green leaves forming a rosette to 10cm wide. The leaves are strikingly marked with white dots and with white stripes on the undersides. Suitable for different soil types and tolerates dry conditions.

**Garden Design & Construction:** Michelle Banfield - Flourish Landscapes