

Dear Friends,

I am writing from my home in the mountains of New Mexico in the arid, southwestern United States. I can't wait to get to Geelong but, in the meantime, I wanted to introduce myself. I am a watershed ecologist, focused on understanding how water moves through ecosystems and managing water for maximum ecological and social benefits.

I began my career in fishery biology twenty years ago, and have been measuring and teaching about aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems ever since. I hold an M.S. in Water Resources and a B.S. in Biology. For over a decade, I have served on the board of the private cooperative water system that serves my community. The photo shows me with the spring box that protects our water supply.



I am passionate about citizen science and have been leading community-based ecological monitoring efforts since 2004. In 2006, I founded Arid Land Innovation, a consulting firm that combines ecology, fire, and watershed science with community participation and public education. In 2015, I started another company, called Field Measures, to develop mobile applications for ecological field data collection.

During my graduate education, I completed several class projects that explored management issues and strategies within the Murray-Darling Basin. I also served as a graduate teaching assistant on a Biodiversity of Australia field course where we spent a month exploring Lizard Island, Kakadu and Lamington National Parks, and the Atherton Tablelands. Following the course, my husband, Ryan, and I fell in love with Australia during our travels. Our eight-year-old daughter, Emma, has always been fascinated with Australia and is very excited about our upcoming move.



I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to study at Deakin University, measure the Painkalac Creek system, and partner with the local community. I look forward to learning from the locals and applying my existing knowledge in a completely new setting. I'm confident that our combined experience will lead to a great outcome. I can't wait to get there and get started! Please feel free to contact me at kbonfantine@gmail.com. I would love to hear about what you are doing and your ideas for what we should be doing together. See you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Bonfantine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Bonfantine