

# The possibilities of deep ecology in the restoration of the common good

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In a society shaped by the dominant discourse of neoliberalism and individualism, where the possibility of life with Earth is threatened by oil dependent, consumptive lifestyles, ecological consciousness is increasingly important. Building on the work of Joanna Macy, we will explore the ways in which ecological knowing, applied by scientists to the restoration of landscapes, can also be embraced in the restoration of societal values such as the common good.

The dominant values of individualism, perpetuated by the structures and process of neoliberalism, promotes decision making and daily life that is largely unaccountable and unconscious in terms of their impacts on ecological resilience. Never before in human history, has the knowing of interconnectedness, and living with greater consciousness been more imperative.

The pace of modern living in Aotearoa New Zealand and in other so called 'developed' countries, does not provide many opportunities for reflective or contemplative thought. We will explore the possibilities of creating spaces for people to experience the awe of ecological interconnectedness and the possibility of enabling greater accountability and ecological responsibility in everyday life.