



Interning with John at the Institute for Deep Ecology has, so far, been an absolute joy and honour.

Three weeks into my eight-week internship, I've had the opportunity to collaborate with John on projects that feel deeply meaningful and aligned with my values. One of the highlights has been supporting the recent Los Cedros rainforest campaign, which raised over \$16,000. Following the fundraiser, we organised a virtual tour of the research station so supporters could see firsthand where their funds are going and the work they're helping to make possible.

I've also had the chance to connect with the team at Los Cedros, sharing ideas and exploring ways we can continue supporting their important work. Through this experience, I've seen how John builds and nurtures relationships, not only with Los Cedros, but also with organisations such as the Rainforest Information Centre and the many people working within the broader Earth movement.

No two days look the same. One day we're recording social media content; the next I'm editing graphics, developing his upcoming podcast, writing and reviewing articles, or sitting in on Zoom meetings with some incredibly inspiring people. As well as taking some of the admin drudgery off his shoulders.

One of my favourite parts of the internship has been the ongoing exchange of ideas. John and I spend a lot of time bouncing thoughts off one another, which has been such an exciting creative process to engage in this work together to see how we can move deep ecology more into the mainstream.

It's not only this work with John that has been such a privilege, but also the way his family have so graciously welcomed me into their home, making this experience feel far more than an internship... We share meals, cook for each other, spend time tending John's garden, play boardgames, swim laps in the local heated pool and share stories and music around the dinner table.

Living here at Narara Eco Village has been a joyful experience. Every day I'm getting to know more and more people here at the village who are quickly becoming friends and it's beginning to feel like a community I belong in. I'm never short of something to do here, whether that be meeting a friend for a cuppa down at the coffee cart, weekly 'dancing in the dark', joining in bush regen sessions, yoga, supporting the community garden, teaching my Somatic Movement

classes to villagers, sitting around a fire on a Friday night, or simply walking in Strickland Forest right outside our back gate.

What a gift it is to be here, learning from John and contributing to this work. I'm excited to see what the next five weeks will bring.

Already, this short time at Narara has given me an immense sense of hope in seeing that communities like this do exist, and that a different way forward is possible.