

Kae Miller Trust, the Lodge and the Peace Grove



The Kae Miller Trust was originally called the View Road Park Society, incorporated in 1981. The aims of the Society were to:

- Develop View Road South Park / Te Raekaihau by planting natives;
- Establish a center for conservation strategy;
- Build sanctuaries and care-taking lodges;
- Offer employment and accommodation to Society members;
- Develop workshops for cottage type industries;
- Provide native plant and useful plant nurseries;
- Undertake research of alternative building techniques;
- Provide avenue for family celebrations and theatrical entertainment.

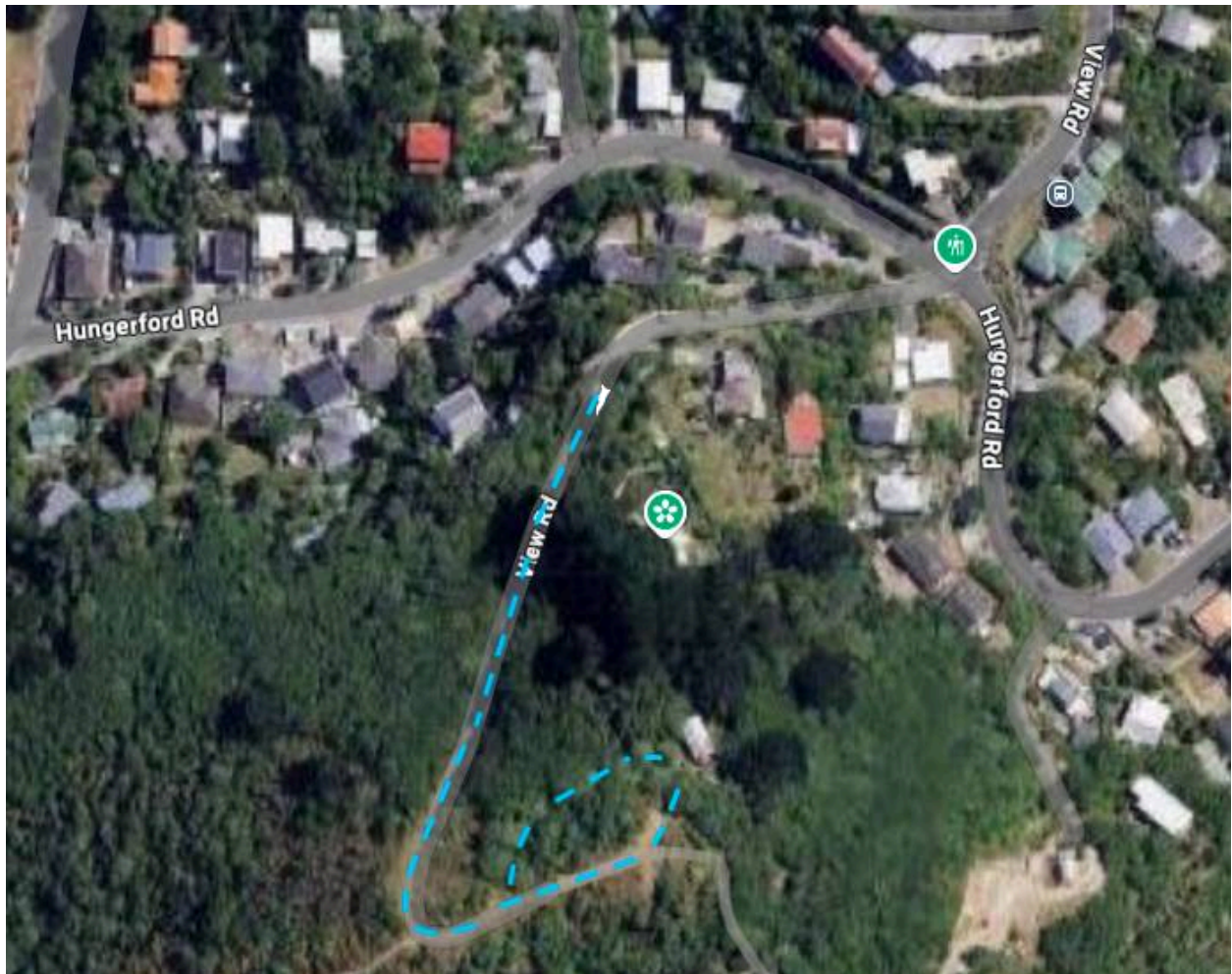
However by 2007 the Society was no longer operating, and a neighbour created the Kae Miller Trust so that the Lodge would remain there for the community and Kae Miller would not be forgotten. Now the Trust maintains the Alice Krebs Lodge as a place for people to stay for rest and retreat, and supports the restoration work undertaken on the headland.

The Alice Krebs Lodge

The Lodge is situated on the eastern slope of The Lookout / Beacon Hill. It overlooks Lyall Bay and Pencarrow Head and by walking up to The Lookout you can enjoy a panoramic view of both the South Coast of the North Island and across Cook Strait to the top of the South Island and the Kaikoura ranges. From the Lodge, bush tracks fan out across the reserve in several directions. Kae Miller organised the building of the Lodge in 1984 (with the help of the Volco Trust, Box Trust, and Bruce Stewart from Taputeranga Marae).

Description: the Lodge is self-contained with one bedroom, a bathroom and an open kitchen-dining-lounge area with a wood burner.

How to get there: the track to the Lodge begins at the end of View Road South. There is limited parking in the cul-de-sac. The No. 23 bus stops about 100m further back in View Road. It is quite a climb up to the top if you have gear to carry up.



The Peace Grove

The Peace Grove is about half an acre of land on the south side of the Lodge. In 1985, a Japanese Peace Delegation planted a pohutukawa, which marked the beginning of the Peace Grove. After that, Kae Miller invited people from several different nations to plant trees to symbolise peace. Many of these trees are not endemic to Wellington, but have special significance due to their provenance.

For a long time the Peace Grove was quite open with a seat looking out over the view. Now the trees have grown and the view is into forest. The planted trees sit amongst other locally sourced planted trees and natural regeneration.

Kae wanted the Park to be a Beacon for Peace. From 6pm every night a silent meditation took place. No meat, sugar, coffee or tea was permitted. She encouraged others to eat raw food,

locally foraged weeds, seaweed and mushrooms. She wanted people who came to the Park to eat well, look after their bodies, each other and the planet. She quoted:

“Members believe that Peace Parks can be a powerful tool in saving the world from nuclear disaster and should be set up without delay around the world.”

Some time in the early 2010s the Trust tried to get the Peace Grove registered with the [International Institute for Peace through Tourism](#), but it never came to fruition.