

The view from the Northern Motorway



My two cents

'Coming down over Pine Hill off the motorway when you have been away from Dunedin (or are living somewhere else) always takes my breath away to be home.'

- Katie Sayer



Those were the days...

The majority of the construction work for the Northern Motorway was undertaken by Public Works Department staff and contract labour and machinery. When work began in the 1930s, this 'machinery' still consisted mostly of horses and carts. By the time work was resumed after World War Two, these had been replaced by bulldozers and trucks.



Local lingo

Kilmog

It is believed that this name originated from a European whaler's pronunciation of the Māori word *kirimoko*.

Kirimoko is a species of *mānuka* or *teatree* which was sometimes used to make tea.

No other city in New Zealand has such a dramatic entrance. Whether you're a local Dunedinite returning home, or a visitor coming to the city for the first time, the view that greets you from the Northern Motorway is sure to take your breath away. An impressive tableau of city, gardens, bush, hills, harbour and sea beyond is visible from this stretch of road which winds its way over the steep Kilmog hill.

It is difficult to imagine travelling north out of Dunedin via any other route, yet this is exactly what travellers did before the present motorway was opened. State Highway 1 originally followed the old Mount Cargill road. However, this frequently presented the problem of fog, and it was also notoriously narrow, with many sharp corners. An alternative route was via either the Leith Valley or Waitati Valley roads, but these were also narrow and unsealed.

Construction on the new motorway began in the mid 1930s, although the lack of available labour during World War Two meant that work was put on hold until 1948. The Northern Motorway was finally opened in 1956.

Despite being closed occasionally by snowfalls over the winter, this route has substantially reduced the travelling time from Dunedin to Waitati. When coupled with such a fantastic view, who can really complain?



View of Dunedin and Otago Harbour from the Northern Motorway

Photo: ODT www.otagomimes.co.nz



This sign greets travellers entering Dunedin via the Northern Motorway

Photo: ODT www.otagomimes.co.nz



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