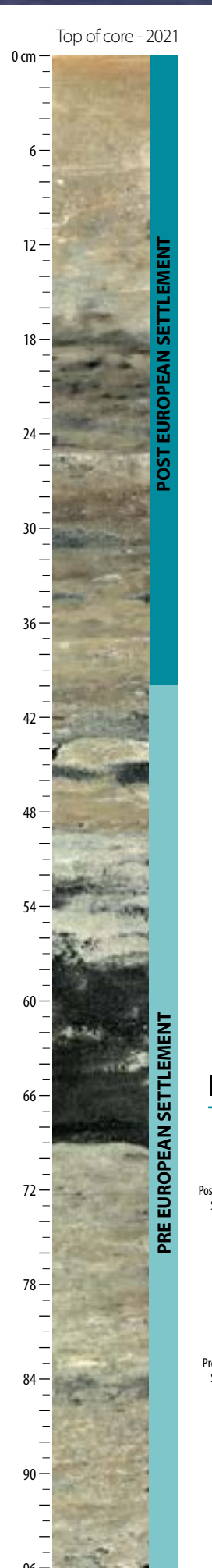




Lakes380

Our lakes' health  
past, present, future  
Me hoki whakamuri,  
kia haere whakamua



# LAKE ONOKE

**Region:** Wellington **Location:** South Wairarapa **Coordinates:** 41° 22' 49" S 175° 7' 54" E **Depth:** 8 m

Lake Onoke lies at the end of the Wairarapa Moana wetland complex. Its main inflows are the Ruamāhanga river and Lake Wairarapa. All water flowing out of this catchment passes through it. It has high cultural values and is an historic tuna (eel) harvest site.

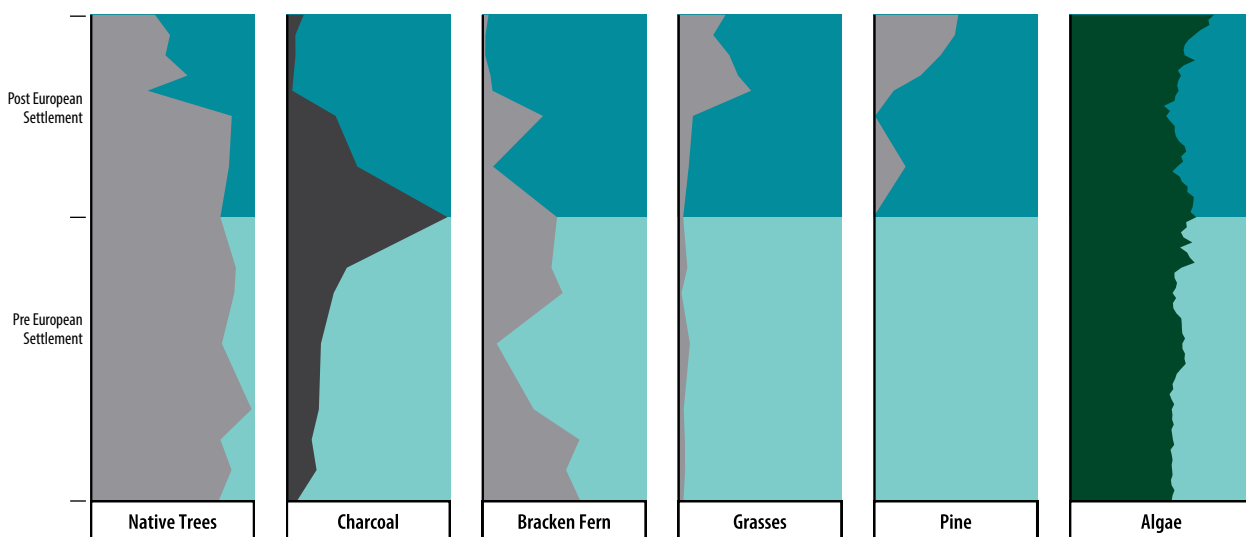
Initial results from the sediment core suggest that prior to European settlement the lake was surrounded by native forest dominated by podocarp and beech. However, during this period there was ongoing disturbance to the vegetation in the wider region. This is shown in the graphic below by the presence of charcoal (burning) and bracken fern pollen, often associated with landscape disturbance.

About the time of European settlement in the region there was a marked change in the vegetation. A large spike in charcoal signals clearing by fire. Following this there was a decrease in native trees and increases in pastoral farming (grasses). Non-native trees such as pine were planted in the wider region.

Algae concentrations appear to be gradually increasing in this lake.

Click to hear more [Lake Onoke stories](#).

## POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~600 YEARS



This graphic indicates the changes in abundance of plants, charcoal or algae through time.