



Lakes380

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



LAKE WAIORONGOMAI

Region: Wellington **Location:** Kapiti Coast **Coordinates:** 40° 42' 42" S 175° 8' 33" E **Depth:** 1 m

Lake Waiorongomai is a culturally significant lake that forms part of the cluster of dune lake/wetland systems located just north of Ōtaki. The lake is now degraded and is the focus of an iwi led restoration programme.

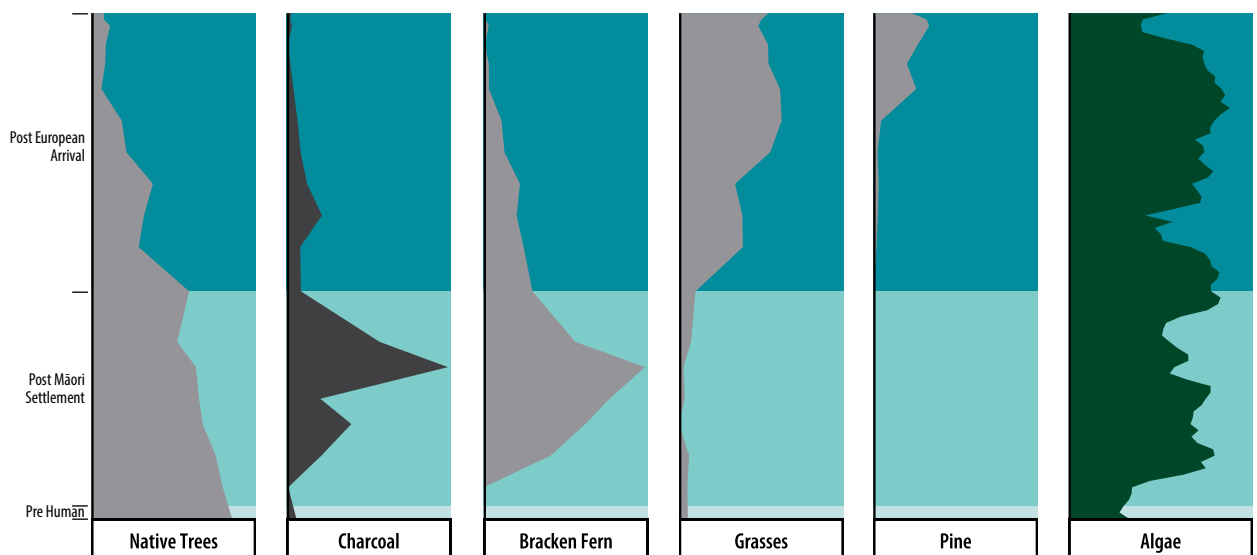
Initial results from the sediment core suggest that prior to human arrival Lake Waiorongomai was surrounded by dense native forest dominated by rimu, mātai and beech.

After Māori settlement forest disturbance is evident. This is highlighted in the graphic below by the increase in charcoal (burning) and bracken fern, which is commonly associated with landscape disturbance.

Post European arrival there was a further change in the landscape. Most remaining native forest was removed. Grassland became the dominant vegetation surrounding the lake, and non native trees such as pines were planted in the region.

The lake appears to have had high levels of algae for the last ~ 600 years.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~800 YEARS



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