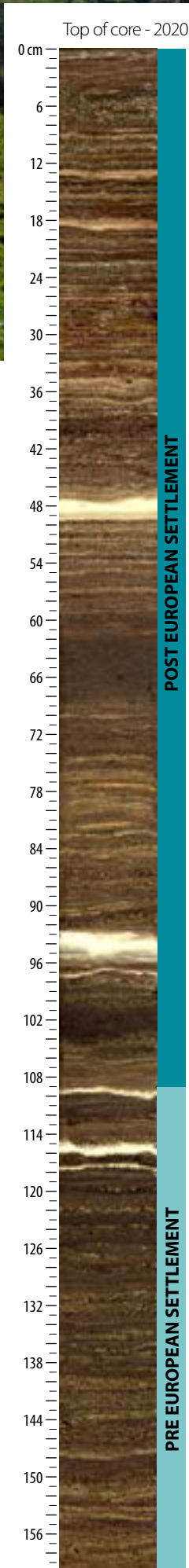




Lakes380

Our lakes' health past, present, future

Me hoki whakamuri, kia haere whakamua



LAKE WAIHAU

Region: Gisborne **Location:** Tiniroto **Coordinates:** 38° 45' 18" S 177° 33' 17" E **Depth:** 25 m

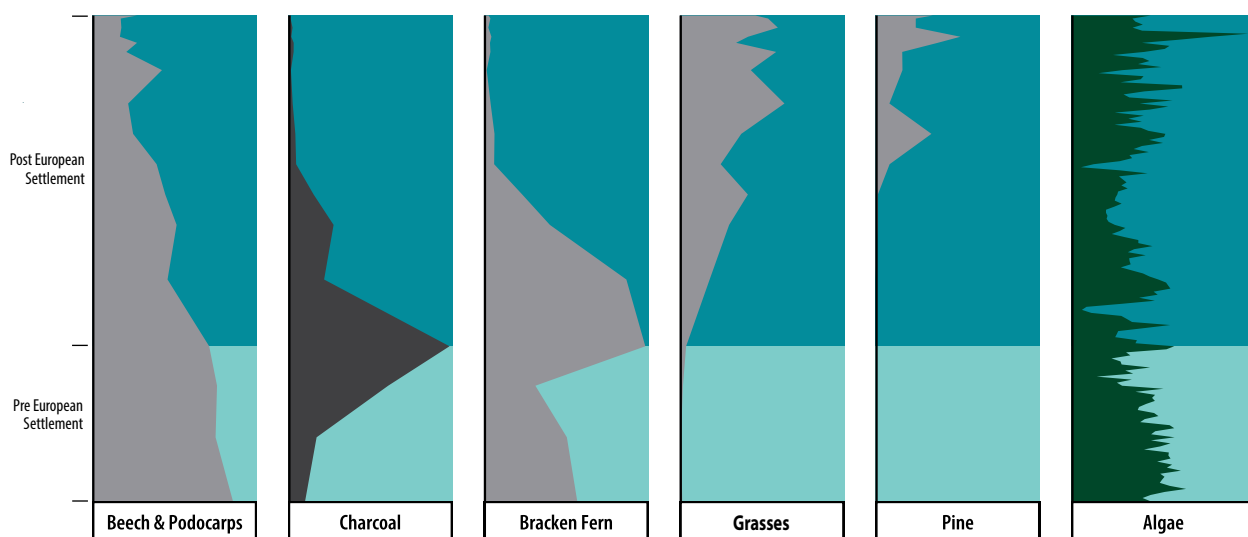
Lake Waihou is one of the Tiniroto (meaning many lakes in Māori) lakes, situated east between Gisborne and Wairoa. The steep sided 10 ha lake has been a popular place for trout fishing but this has reduced due to poor water quality in summer.

Initial results from the sediment core suggest that pre European settlement Lake Waihou was primarily surrounded by native forest, dominated by podocarp (especially rimu), beech and the small tree coriaria. There is evidence of some vegetation disturbance during this period. This is shown in the graphic below by increases in charcoal (fire) and bracken fern which is often associated with forest disturbance.

Post European settlement forest clearance increased. The native species were replaced by grasses and non native trees such as pine were planted in the region.

The initial algal data from the sediment core shows that there have always been algae in the lake. The levels of algae are highly variable which is likely due to sediment inputs and the occurrence of summer algae blooms. The amount of algae appears to be increasing in recent years.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~300 YEARS



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