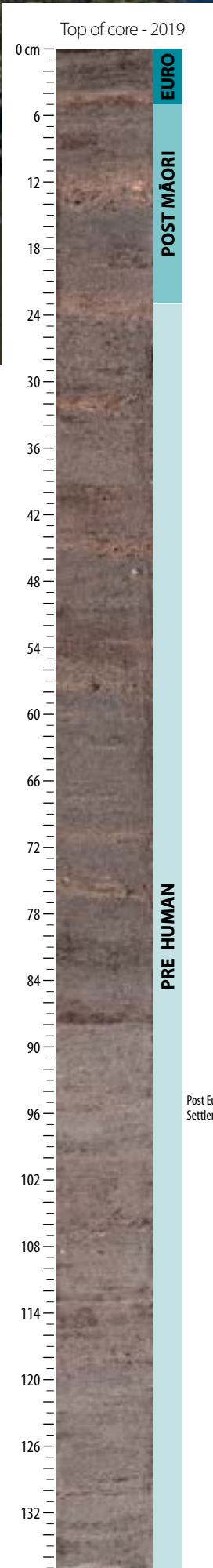




Lakes380

Our lakes' health past, present, future

Me hoki whakamuri, kia haere whakamua



LAKE RICHTER

Region: Southland **Location:** Fiordland National Park **Coords:** 45° 29'8"S 167° 30'19"E **Depth:** 33 m

Lake Richter is a small lake in Fiordland National Park. The lake is situated in a small depression on top of a peninsula on the northern side of Lake Manapouri.

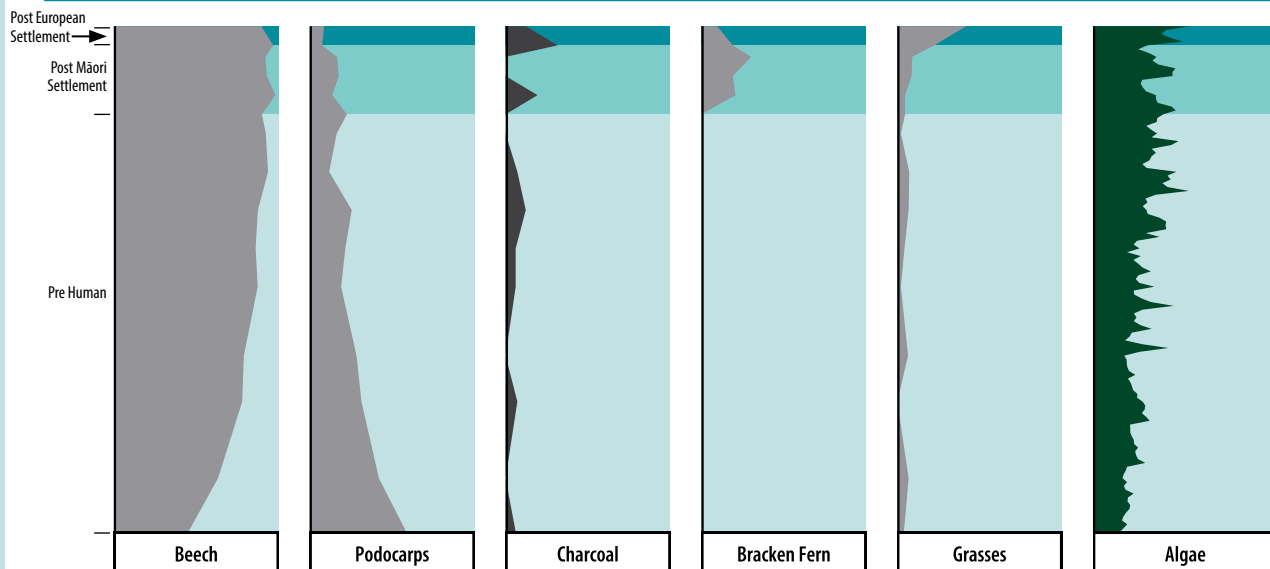
Initial results from the sediment core suggest dense native forest surrounding Lake Richter, dominated by a mixture of podocarps (predominantly mataī and rimu) and beech trees, has remained relatively consistent over the past 4000 years. Over time the abundance of beech has increased and podocarps decreased, possibly reflecting a natural shift influenced by climate.

As Māori arrived in the southland region, there are signs of changes in the vegetation farther afield,

away from the site. This is highlighted in the graphic below by traces of charcoal (burning) and appearance of bracken fern pollen, commonly associated with landscape disturbance.

Post European arrival grass pollen increases, which likely indicates wind blown pollen from the establishment of pastoral land use in the wider region. Algae have always been present in the lake and may have increased slightly in the last ~1000 years.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~4000 YEARS



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