



Lakes380

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



LAKE WAITAWA

Region: Wellington **Location:** Kāpiti Coast **Coordinates:** 40° 43' 29" S 175° 10' 15" E **Depth:** 7 m

Lake Waitawa is part of a group of highly modified small dune lake/wetland systems found just north of Ōtaki. The lake is fed by small streams/wetlands and possibly groundwater. Water quality is poor and the lake suffers from nuisance algal blooms.

Initial results from the sediment core suggest that prior to human arrival Lake Waitawa was surrounded by dense native forest abundant in podocarps (mātai and rimu in particular).

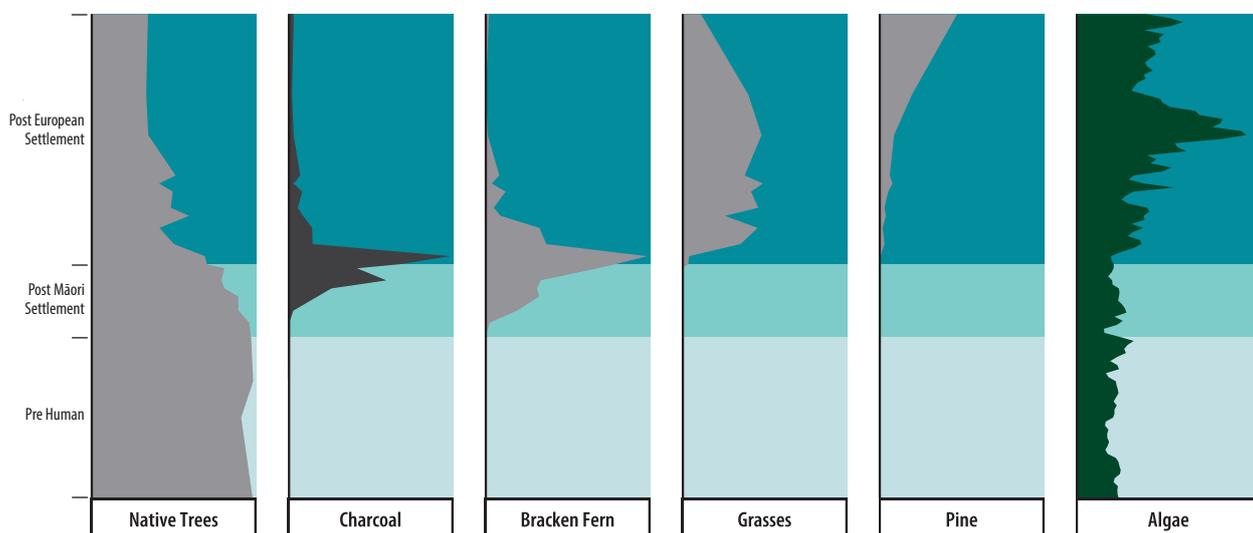
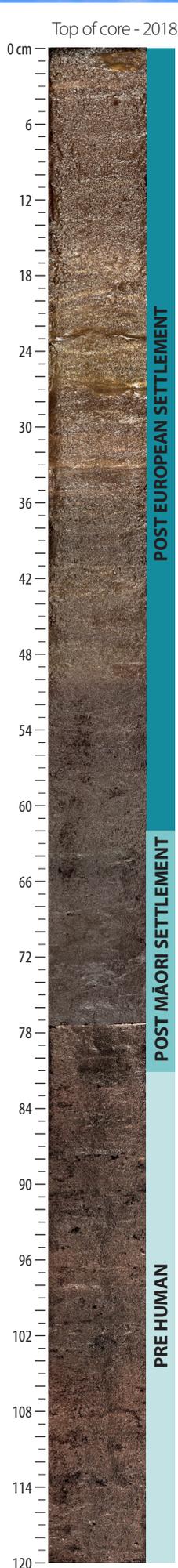
After Māori settlement, some vegetation clearance began. This is highlighted in the graphic below by charcoal (fire) and increased

bracken fern, commonly associated with landscape disturbance.

Post European arrival clearance of native forest continued. Pastoral lands increase and non native trees such as pine were planted in the region.

Algae levels increased post European arrival and have been variable over the last 200 years.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~1200 YEARS



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