



Lakes380

Our lakes' health
past, present, future

Me hoki whakamuri,
kia haere whakamua



LAKE KAPOAI

Region: Northland **Location:** Pouto Peninsula **Coords:** 36° 2' 43" S 173° 49' 58" E **Depth:** 12 m

Lake Kapoai is a dune lake surrounded by farmland with a outlet at its northern end. The lake has been recently fenced.

Initial results from the Lake Kapoai sediment core suggest that it does not date back to pre human times.

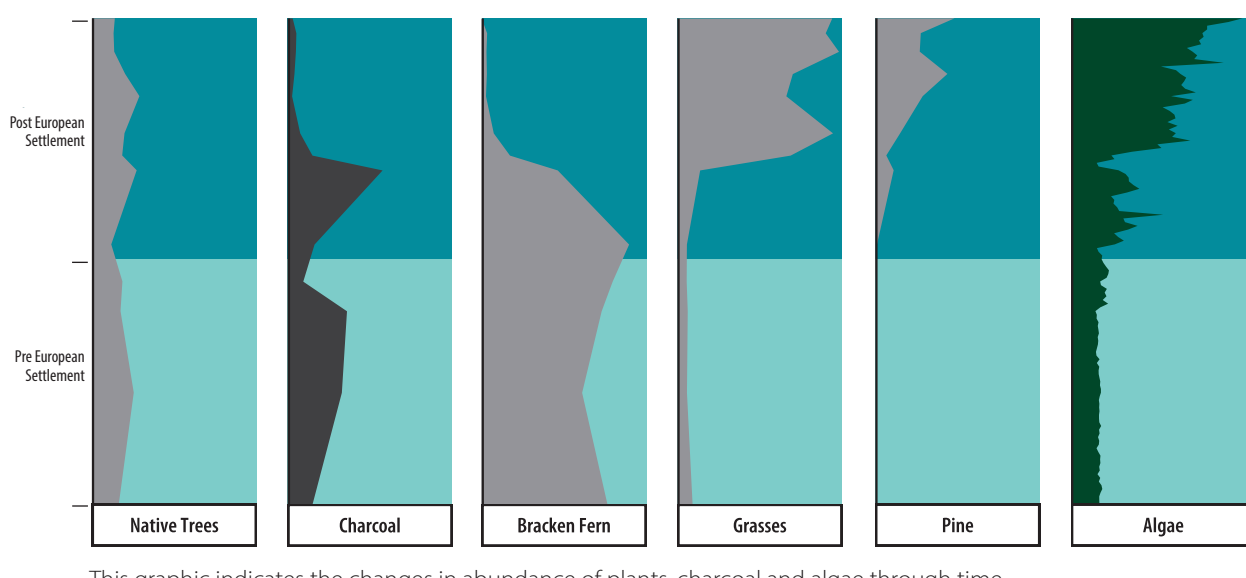
The sediment core likely begins after Māori settled in the region. The abundance of native trees in the region is already reduced, with rimu the most dominant tall tree left. The presence of charcoal (fire) and high amounts of bracken fern, suggest a very disturbed landscape around the lake during this period.

Post European arrival, pastoral land and pine plantations were established in the region.

Algae have always been present in the lake, but have increased markedly since the vegetation became dominated by pastoral land.

There is a visible change in the colour of the sediment core at about 47 cm, which aligns with when the algae levels increased.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~500 YEARS



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