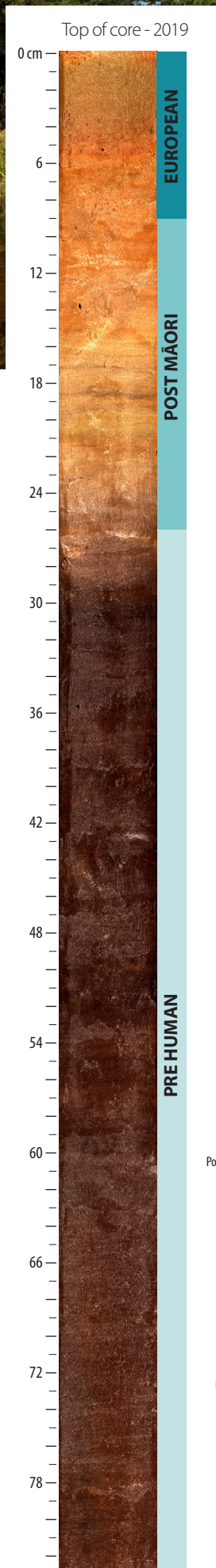




Lakes380

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



LAKE WAHAKARI

Region: Northland **Location:** Te Paki **Coordinates:** 34° 39' 10" S 172° 55' 43" E **Depth:** 12.5 m

Lake Wahakari is a relatively large, moderately deep dune lake. The lake is situated in a catchment dominated by exotic pine forest and high producing grassland. It has good water quality and is the water supply to Te Kao.

Initial results from the sediment core suggest that prior to human settlement Lake Wahakari was surrounded by native forest abundant in podocarps, in particular rimu.

Post Māori settlement some vegetation clearance began. This is highlighted in the graphic below by charcoal (fire) and an increase in bracken fern, often associated with landscape modification.

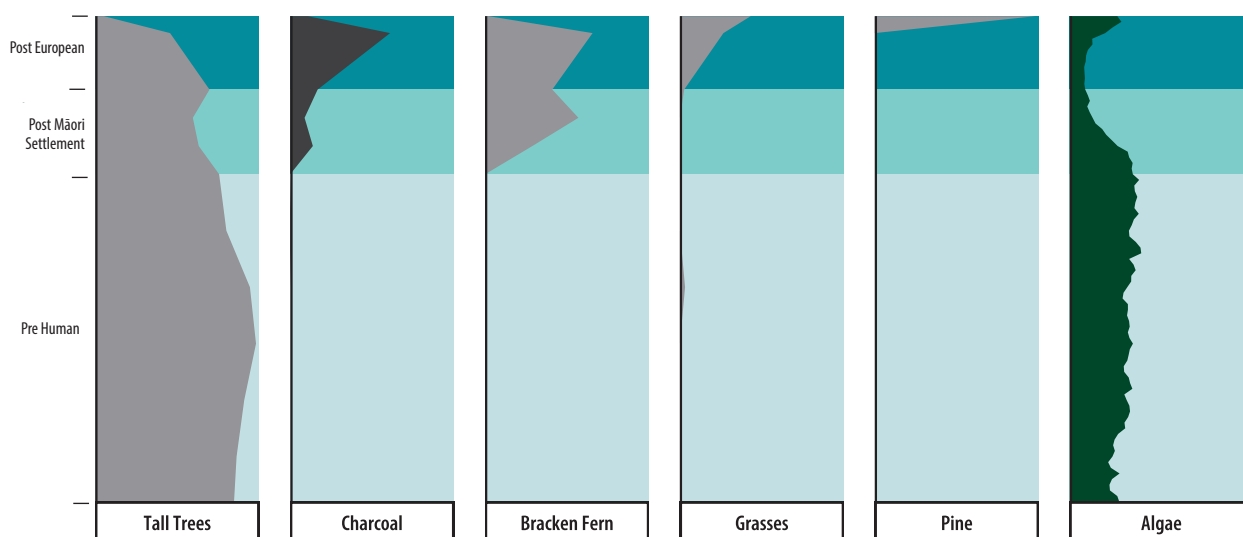
Post European settlement native forest clearance

increased. The native trees were replaced by pine trees and grasses.

Algae have always been present in the lake at low levels, and there is no evidence that this has increased markedly.

The change in colour in the sediment core photo at about 26 cm suggests a change from organic lake mud to sandy lake sediment, and indicates the increase of sand into the lake system from nearby sand dunes.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~2500 YEARS



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