

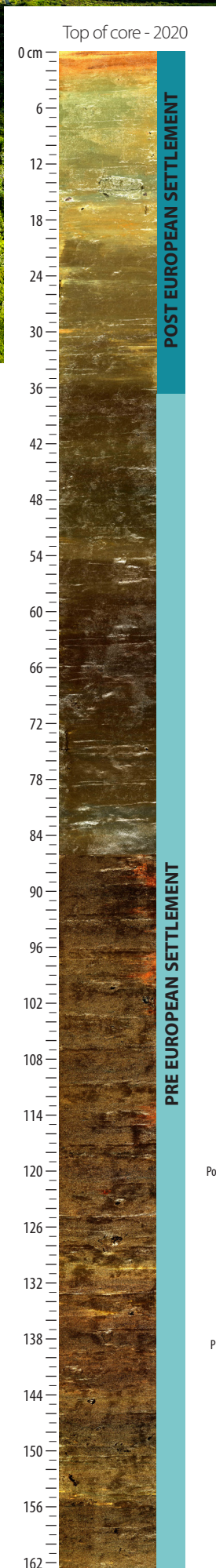


Lakes380

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



Image by Rob Suisted – Nature's Pic Images photos@naturespic.com



LAKE TAHAAROA

Region: Waikato **Location:** Tahaaroa **Coordinates:** 38° 9' 51" S 174° 44' 28" E **Depth:** 8 m

Lake Tahaaroa is culturally significant for Ngaati Mahuta ki te hauaauru. It is the central lake of a complex of seven shallow freshwater dune lakes. The lakes make up the only significant coastal freshwater wetland between Kaipara Harbour and Taranaki bight.

The Lake Tahaaroa sediment core captures historic information going back about 700 years. Initial results from the sediment core suggest that prior to European settlement Lake Tahaaroa was surrounded native bush dominated by rimu, kahikatea, coprosma, and many varieties of fern.

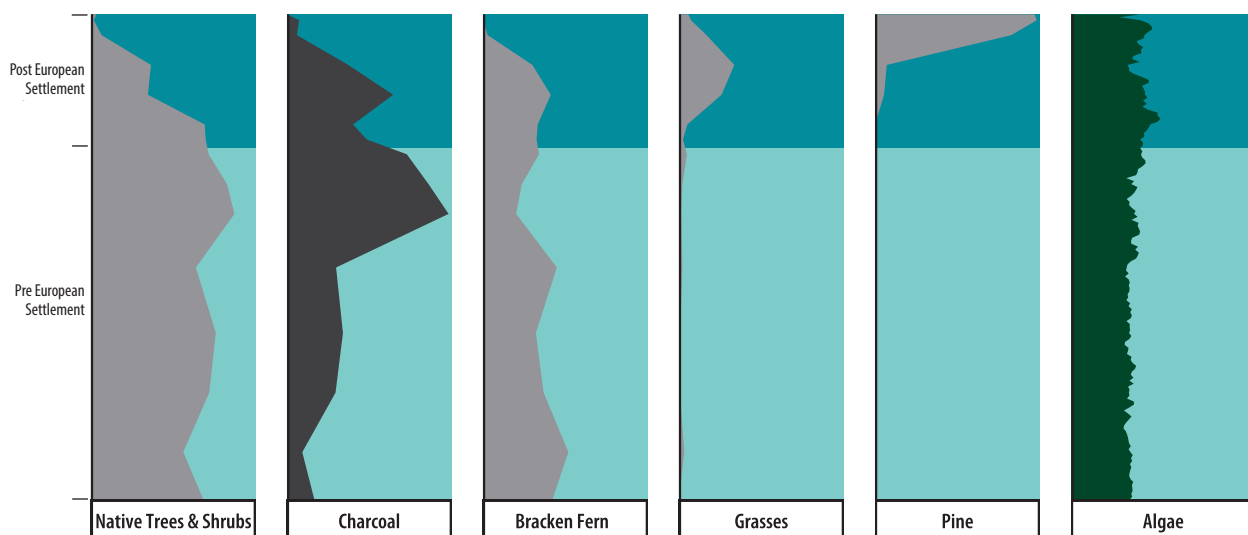
During the period prior to European settlement there was some vegetation change. This is highlighted in the graphic below by charcoal

(fire) and an increase in bracken fern, often associated with landscape modification.

Post European settlement forest reduction continued. The native trees were replaced by grasses, and exotic trees such as pine were planted in the region.

The amount of algae present in the lake has not changed much over the last 700 years and this indicates the lake is still in good condition.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~700 YEARS



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