



Lakes380

Our lakes' health
past, present, future

Me hoki whakamuri,
kia haere whakamua



LAKE TOMARATA

Region: Auckland **Location:** Tomarata

Coordinates: 36° 11'32"S 174° 38'55"S **Depth:** 5 m

Lake Tomarata is a shallow dune lake within a catchment dominated by dairy and exotic forestry. The lake water quality is generally good, due to an extensive wetland margin along its southern and western banks, which filters nutrient inputs from neighbouring farms.

The initial results from the sediment core suggest that prior to human settlement rimu and kauri forests were abundant in the region. As humans arrived some forest clearance began in the region. This is highlighted in the graphic to the right by the increase in charcoal (burning) and pollen from bracken fern which is commonly associated with landscape disturbance. Post European arrival, pastoral land replaced much of the remaining forest, and non-native trees such as pine were planted in the region. Post European settlement pastoral land and pine plantations increase in abundance.

Algae have always been present in the lake but their abundance has increased gradually since European settlement.

POLLEN AND CHARCOAL LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~3000 YEARS

