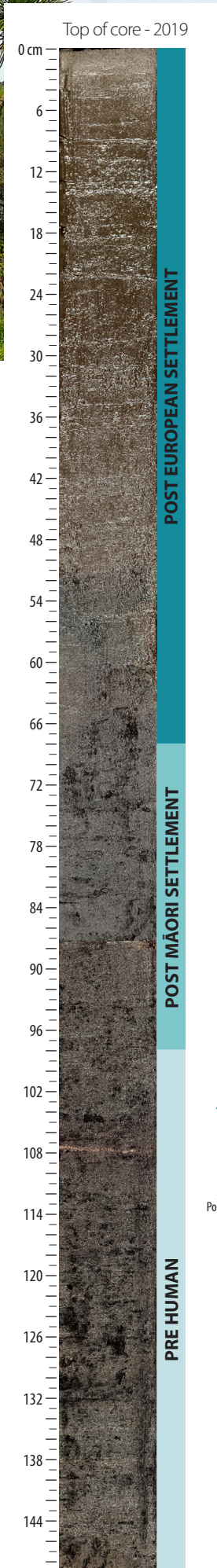




Lakes380

Our lakes' health
past, present, future

Me hoki whakamuri,
kia haere whakamua



LAKE KAWAU

Region: Manawatū-Whanganui **Location:** Tangimoana **Coords:** 40° 15' 43" S 175° 21' 1" E **Depth:** 1.1 m

Lake Kawau is culturally significant to Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, especially as T.W. Rātana spent his childhood closeby. Situated close to the lower reaches of the Rangitīkei River, it is a small lowland lake surrounded by high productivity grassland.

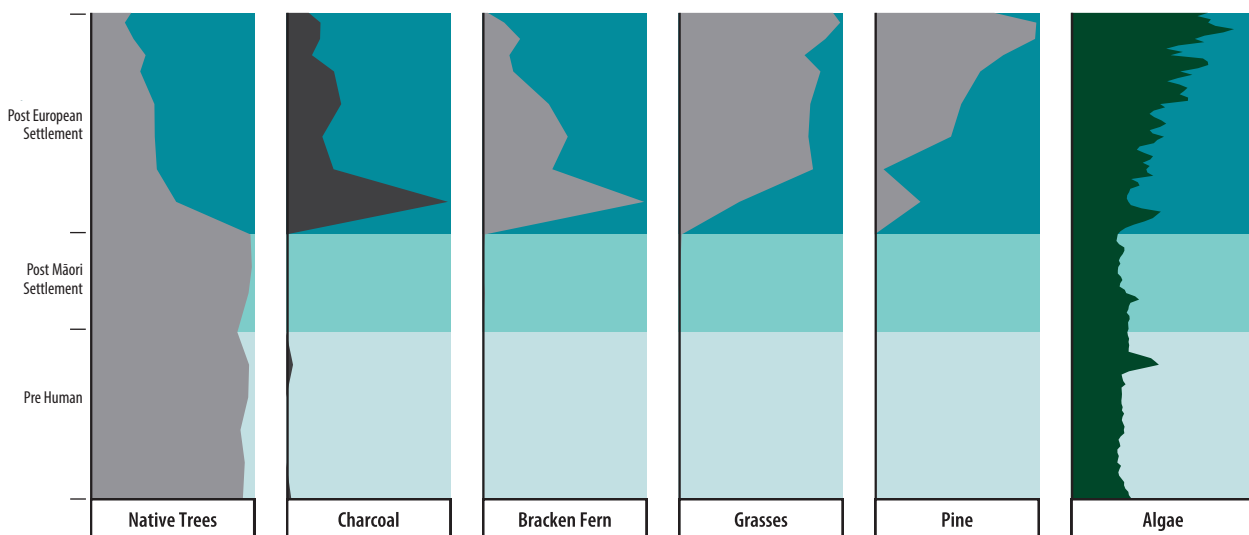
The initial results from the sediment core suggest that pre-human settlement Lake Kawau was surrounded by dense native podocarp forest abundant in rimu, mataī and kahikatea, as well as some maire and pohutakawa.

After Europeans arrived there was an abrupt change in vegetation in the region. This is highlighted in the graphic below by the increase in charcoal (burning) and bracken fern,

which is commonly associated with landscape disturbance. Native trees and vegetation reduced and was increasingly replaced by pastoral land (grasses). Some non-native tree species such as pine and willow were planted around the lake, and pine plantations were established in the wider region.

Algae have always been present in the lake, but levels have increased over the last 100 years.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~2300 YEARS



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