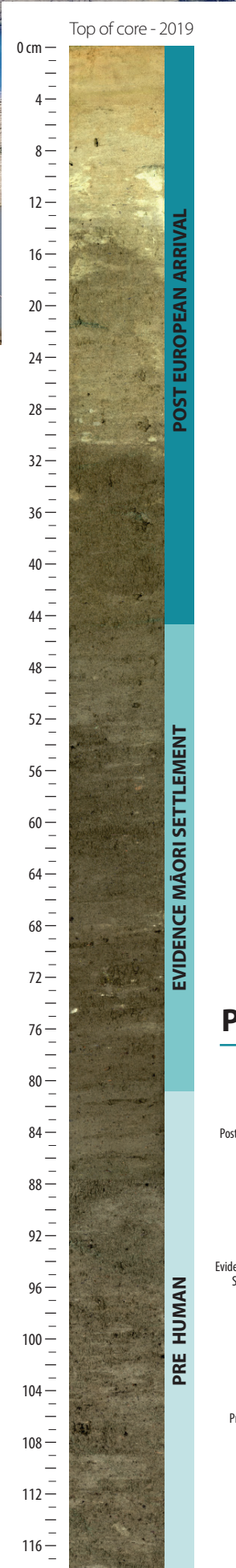




Lakes380

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



LAKE MOAWHITU



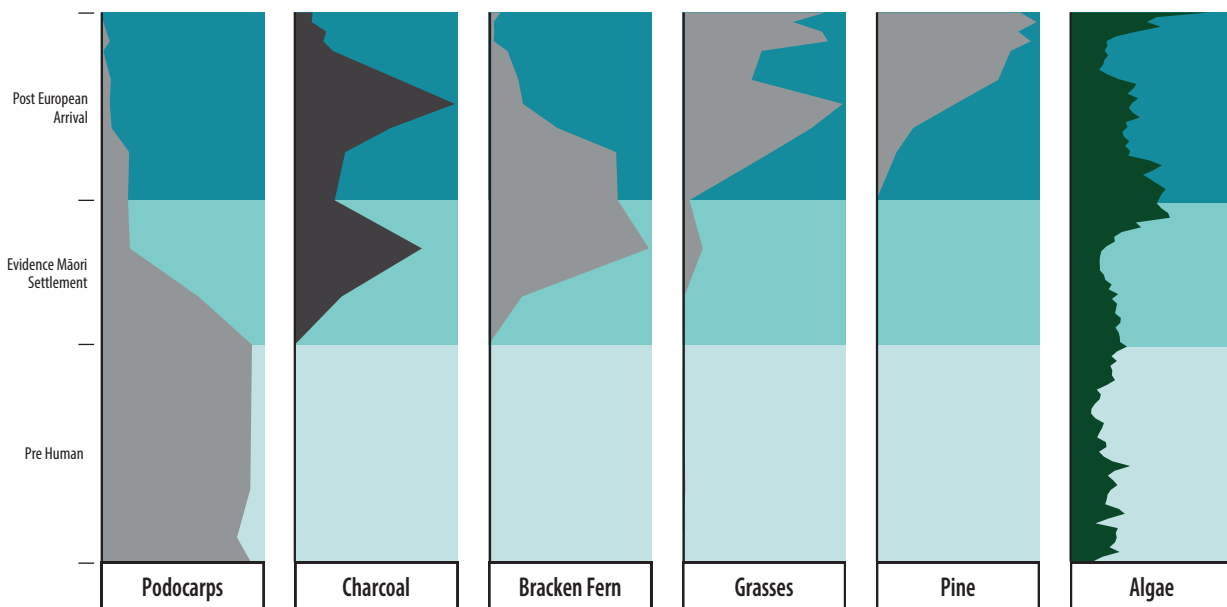
Lake Moawhitu is located on Rangitoto ki te Tonga, also known as d'Urville Island. The lake was once an important source of mahinga kai, in particular tuna (eel), for the local iwi Ngāti Koata. Over the past decades the health of lake has declined.

The initial results from the sediment core suggest that prior to human arrival podocarp (rimu, kahikatea, and mataī) and beech forest were abundant in the region. As humans arrived some forest clearance began in the catchment. This is highlighted in the graphic below 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 on the island.

Algae have always been present in the lake but their abundance has increased dramatically in the last approximately 10 years. A collaborative project between Ngāti Koata and the Department of Conservation aims to improve lake health by restoring water levels and fish habitat, and to reestablish aquatic plants.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~1200 YEARS



The shaded area indicates the concentration of plants, charcoal or algae through time.