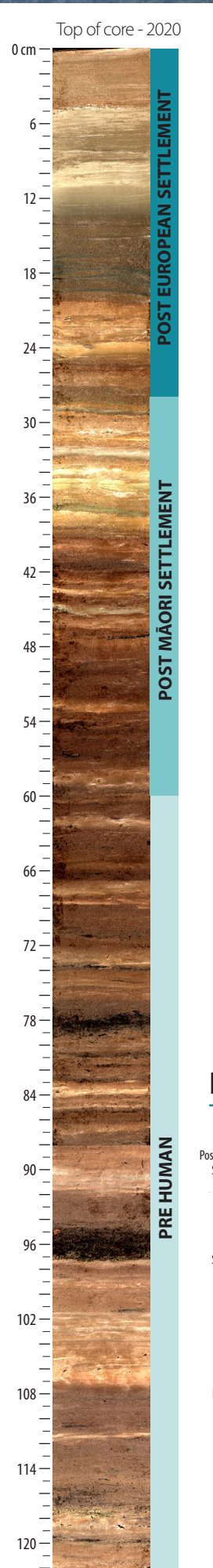




Lakes380

Our lakes' health past, present, future

Me hoki whakamuri, kia haere whakamua



LAKE KĀURAPĀTAKA

Region: West Coast **Location:** Moana **Coordinates:** 42° 47' 9" S 171° 41' 55" E **Depth:** 24 m

Lake Kāurapātaka is set amongst hills and mountain peaks, south of Taramakau River in north Arthur's Pass National Park, with no road access. The lake is in pristine condition, surrounded by native vegetation and is home to large (protected) eels.

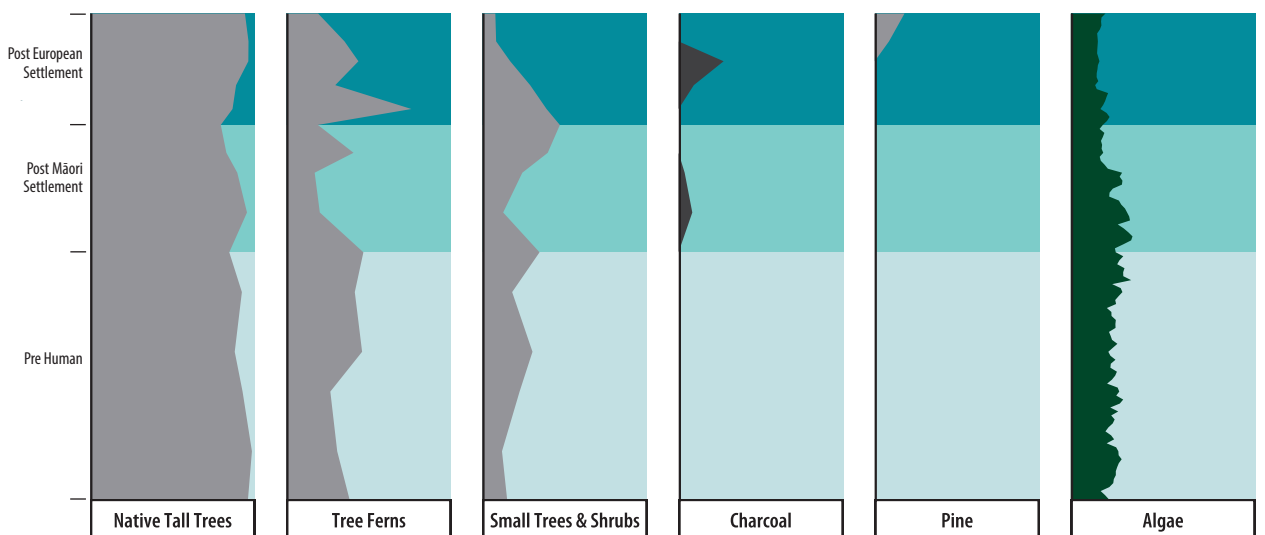
Initial results from the sediment core suggest that the catchment of Lake Kāurapātaka has remained in a similar condition over the last approximately 1200 years. The lake is surrounded by lush native forest dominant in beech and abundant in podocarps and tree ferns. Small trees and shrubs, ground fern and herbs are also present. The light sediment layers within the core represent in wash of material from

earthquakes in the catchment associated with past fault line ruptures/movement.

Age dating of the core, as well as charcoal (fire) evident in the graphic below provide evidence of Māori settlement, followed by European settlement within the wider region.

Algae have always been present in the lake, but the levels remain low.

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



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