

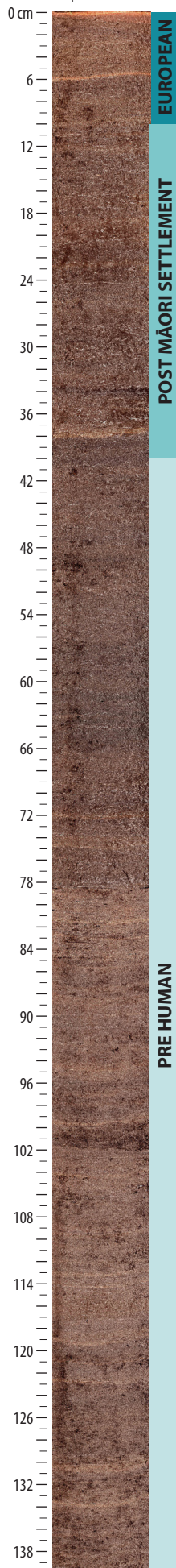


Lakes380

Our lakes' health past, present, future

Me hoki whakamuri, kia haere whakamua

Top of core - 2019



# LAKE BRIGHT

**Region:** Southland **Location:** Fiordland National Park **Coords:** 45° 41' 30" S 167° 8' 34" E **Depth:** 21 m

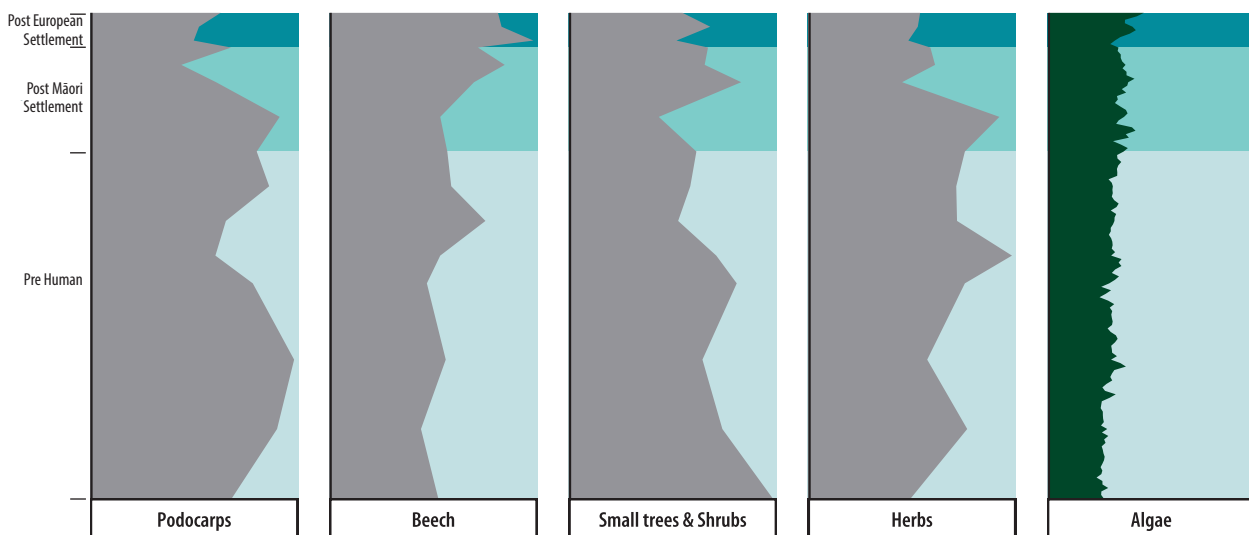
Lake Bright is a remote alpine lake perched at tree line, in a valley between the Pleasant and Merrie Ranges, deep within Fiordland National Park. The lake is fed by Lake Roe and several alpine tarns, and drains to Dusky Sound via Loch Maree.

Initial results from the sediment core suggest that Lake Bright is in very good condition and has experienced little impact from human activity. It is surrounded by a mix of native alpine herbs, small trees and shrubs, and tall native forest. Over the last about 3000 years beech trees have increased in abundance with podocarps reducing slightly.

While the vegetation around the lake remains little changed, signals of human settlement further afield can be observed from pollen in the core. For example, the appearance of traces of pine pollen closer to the top of the core indicates the arrival of Europeans.

Algae have always been present in the lake. Levels may have increased slightly in the last decades.

## POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~3000 YEARS



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