



Dilworth Karaka from Herbs.

The trio went back to singing funky rhythmic songs like a political spoof 'Canberra, we're watching you' and mega-pop shows like 'Countdown' on the ABC television network.

Maui — "We were starting to do original material and began doing background vocal and session work for other artists' recordings, people like Richard Clapton, Renee Geyer. I became really interested in record production and what could be done to improve a sound."

In 1976 Maui returned to New Zealand to find the sound he wanted. He found a Maori band, Collision and returned to tour Australia with the African band, Osibissa.

"They had such a power influx of black music, in their instruments and language which they really showed. They looked at us and said, why can't you do the same? You know, fuse your culture with your music."

This time Maui came up against lack of knowledge of the Maori language, plus the problem that Maori culture didn't seem to have the percussion tradition that the African had. Also around this time, Maui's brother in Angola wrote to him telling about a fantastic black African stage show called 'Ipi Tombi'.

In 1978 Dalvanus and the Fascinations recorded 'Checkmate on Love', a

slow ballad that won many awards at the Australian Soul Awards.

In 1979 Maui returned home to his dying mother and was confronted with his maoritanga. He couldn't understand the Maori his mother spoke in her last days. From this he vowed to feed the spiritual man and not just the physical man.

In 1980, Dalvanus and Barletta, minus Cissy, toured marae and worked with kids. They did a New Zealand tour with the Pointer Sisters and the old question came up again, what's the Maori sound?

"The sisters asked a lot about the Maori people, what they had and what was behind the culture. To them it wasn't obvious by touring the hotels of New Zealand. They turned on the radio and said they could be back in the States listening to the same music. I went out and bought them tapes by Herbs, St Josephs Maori Girls Choir, Pink Flamings.

"We got a chance at the Mormon College at Hamilton to give them a powhiri. It was great, I stumbled through a mihi and for their waiata they sang 'He's so shy'. They said the music reminded them of gospel churches back home."

After the Pointer Sisters left, it was obvious some soul searching was in order but it took a further input from overseas in the shape of Fleetwood Mac's Christine McVie. "She watched our act and advised us to get ethnic."



Feau Halatau receives Best Polynesian Record award from Wiremu Kerekere. Feau's wife looks on.