

1982 saw both Maui and Barletta take an intensive Maori language course at Wellington Polytechnic. Maui has always loved the songs of Maori composers such as Tuini Ngawai and wanted to meet her aunt, Ngoi Pewhairangi.

"I was meant to be only staying a day or two in Tokomaru but it turned out to be several weeks. I found I had so much in affinity with Ngoi and we were able to write several songs, I would supply the melody and Ngoi, the Maori language, it was beautiful."

From this fusion have come many songs to be recorded and the strengthening of the turangawaewae of Maori music.

"I had to look at the history of Maori recording in this country, and while there were many great artists and memorable songs, there wasn't a base to develop from. Most of the songs were Maori words put to European melodies, so all royalties went out of the country. Recording companies recorded Maori artists on the cheap, and because the Maori artists were desperate to record, they compromised.

Maui and Chris McVie of Fleetwood Mac.

Maui and members of the Commodores and Collision.

