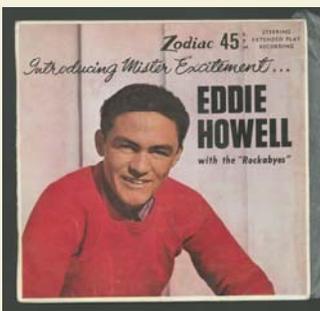


WAIATA (Maori Showbands, Balladeers & Pop Stars)

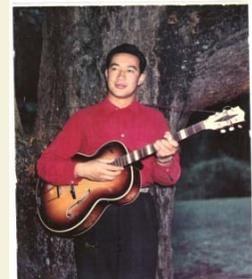
Maori culture has always been at the forefront of this country's popular entertainment culture.

The first feature movie shot in New Zealand, 1913's "Loved By A Maori Chieftess" was a Maori tale. In fact of the 36 films made in New Zealand between 1913 and 1970, 22 had Maori themes.



The very first sound recordings were of Maori performers including Deane Waretini Senior and Ana Hato in the mid 1920s. The first locally written song to be recorded was Ruru Karaitiana's *Blue Smoke* in 1949. The first night of television in New Zealand was based around the programme **Studio One** featuring The Howard Morrison Quartet. All of the early record labels in New Zealand, HMV, Zodiac, Tanza and Viking based their artist roster heavily around Maori performers and musical combos. With the arrival of the new Rock 'n' Roll phenomenon in 1955, it was Maori country and western singer turned reluctant Rock 'n' Roller Johnny Cooper who lead this country's charge into this new Rock 'n' Roll craze with his version of *Rock Around the Clock*.

WAIATA is the first ever complete retrospective of popular Maori showbands, balladeers & pop stars between the years 1955 through to the early 1980's. **WAIATA** begins it's journey with the aforementioned Johnny Cooper from 1955 and also features Eddie Howell (a part time touring member of The Howard Morrison Quartet) who took the country by storm on a national tour in 1959 and just as he experienced the seductive first taste of success turned his back on show business to return to Whakatane to live a quieter life.

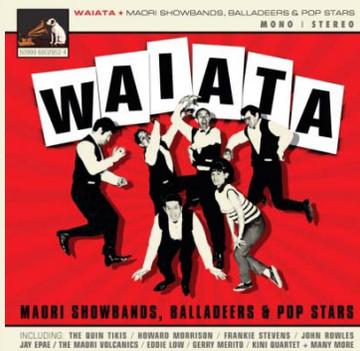


Rino Tirikatene

The early sixties featured many of our most enduring vocalists including Ricky May, Sonny Day, The Howard Morrison Quartet and Jay Epae who had New Zealand's first international hit record when his song *Putti Putti* became a hit in Sweden during their summer of 1960, it is featured here along with his version of *Tumblin' Down* a song he wrote in five minutes for Maria Dallas. It is an honour to include the big deep bass-voiced Rino Tirikatene for the first time on CD. After three singles and work due to start on an album for HMV, Rino instead turned his back on pop stardom and decided to run as the Labour candidate for Rangiora North in the 1963 general election. Rino lost in the election and leaving his sister Whetu Tirikatene-Sullivan to carry on the family's political legacy, Rino became a Ratana minister. Vocal groups such as The Dell Kings with Howard Morrison's brother Laurie feature alongside Gisborne's Kini Quartet who possibly had one of the biggest local sleeper hits of the sixties with *Under the Sun*, a song written by Gisborne songwriter Margarett Raggett.



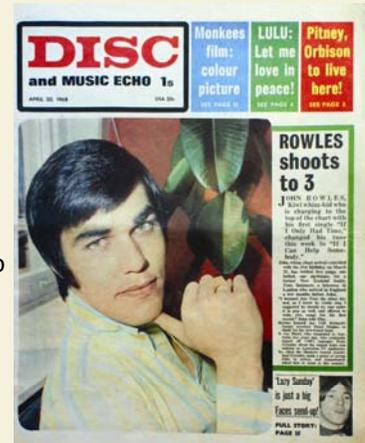
Maori show bands were an important part of our musical landscape, in most cases they were just as important for the talent that would be nurtured within their ranks as evidenced by The Maori Troubadours with a young Tui Teka who would go on to massive solo success via a six-year stint with The Maori Volcanics who at various times would feature Billy T James and Dalvanius Prime.



The Quin Tikis

The Quin Tikis have a dominant presence on this CD collection, not only do they grace the cover but are represented by five tracks featuring the vocal talents of Lisa Nuku, the king of groove Mr Rim D Paul and Keri Summers. Eddie Low was not available for this release which gives this CD a great opportunity to spotlight his talent as a member of The Quin Tikis, his version of *Maria* with The Quin Tikis is a testament to his Orbisonesque vocal quality backed with a band that he sang with for six nights a week over a five-year period.

John Rowles' international success in 1968 (when he was kept off the top of the UK chart by Cliff Richards' *Congratulations* and Louis Armstrong's *Wonderful World*) was the springboard for himself and a host of Maori balladeers including Nash Chase, Tui Fox, Bunny Walters, Frankie Price (John Rowles' brother) and Frankie Stevens who in 1970 was signed by Tom Jones' manager Gordon Mills, Frankie's first job in the UK was to record demos for Tom Jones. Frankie would go on to win the prestigious UK TV talent show "Opportunity Knocks" an unprecedented six times, a feat unmatched by previous winners Pam Ayers and Mary Hopkin.



Mid seventies disco and dance rhythms feature predominately on Disc 2 with Billy T.K & Powerhouse, Mark Williams, Dalvanius & The Fascinations before closing with the late seventies renaissance of the BIG Maori ballads that took out mortgages at the top of the NZ hit Parade during the late seventies including number one hits - John Rowles' *Tania*, Howard Morrison's *How Great Thou Art*, Deane Waretini's *The Bridge* and Prince Tui Teka's *E-Ipo* represented here by the superior earlier version on his own Tui record label. Billy T James is featured on this collection as a member of The Maori Volcanics plus a track from the 1980 TV show "Radio Times" which catapulted Billy to stardom and into our living rooms every week as the 1930s crooner Dexter Fitzgibbons.



The Maori Volcanics

WAIATA is a magical musical journey, through a unique period of time with a cast of talented and passionate artists.

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