

Vince Ford - Conference Dinner speaker

The dinner and Vince Ford's talk was a fitting end to a memorable day at the SLANZA conference at St Peter's. In the evening about sixty of us converged on Southwell Prep in Hamilton to 'eat, drink and be merry'. A very welcoming dining room with fires at either end where we partook of a delicious meal prepared by the chef and catering staff of Southwell. Seated at tables of six or eight, we were able to converse with each other and hear what was being said!

The after dinner speaker, Vince Ford, entertained and informed us about his life, his books, his philosophy and his future. He seems to have a rather idyllic life, although he requires a good deal of self-discipline to write in such surroundings. Vince described his life at Makorori Beach, north of Gisborne where he has the best of a rural and beach lifestyle. Vince emphasised that unless his wife, who is a school principal had a job, he would be unable to enjoy the luxury of being a full time writer.

Vince's next books are going to be quite a different genre from his previous ones, *2much4u*, *Somuch2do*, *A Handful of Blue* and *It's a Try*. Vince has spent some time in Iowa researching the history of the late ice age when they made stone spear points and hunted mammoths, and where Siberia was joined to Alaska. He learned so much from this history, showing us with measuring tape how long the tusks and height of mammoths were! The first draft of this new book was so long it has had to be drastically reduced and sadly doesn't include all his extensive research. Never-the-less we eagerly await its publication. A most enjoyable evening with an entertaining author, thanks Vince.

Gaye Robertson