From Community Living to city parks

Projects that engage with the world beyond the classroom

Books, exhibitions and other publications
Community Living, an organisation that supports people with intellectual disabilities

What do the students think?

Community Living project

“The introduction done by Community Living helped a lot with questions but to be honest we just had to have common sense to know what to say and do. It was a worthwhile experience.”

“[I] hung out with him first, and got to know him a bit. [That] made questions easier, and I think he felt more open to answer.”

“Treat them as you would anyone when getting to know them.”

Wintec students’ responses to questions about interview process
From the students’ responses

Question 3: If you felt well-prepared, what do you feel helped you most?

In terms of preparation, the classroom presentation by Community Living was mentioned eight times.

Past experience was mentioned twice.

To enhance preparation further, four suggested meeting a person with an intellectual disability in class.

Question 8 Please give any other suggestions that would help journalism students become effective interviewers of people living with an intellectual disability.

Getting to know the subject before interviewing came through as a theme, though one person made an interesting contrary point, saying the interviewing should start from the get-go because of the difficulty in getting a person with an intellectual disability to go back over material they’ve already shared.

What do the students think?

Wintec 90th book

https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-WRSMDRVV/
From the students’ responses

It helped prepare them for the workforce, where they won’t always be able to write about what they want to.

“I did not want to write about the person I had to but he actually had an amazing story to tell.”

“It’s about doing the best with what you’ve been given.”

Value seen in getting work published

“Experiencing and appreciating another culture.”

One “drawback” was the time it took, including travel to interview.

“I don’t like any of my own work.”

“I love my work.”

So...

Students will go along for the ride

Real world outcome is seen as having value

Learning is relevant to journalism

Value seen by institution

Demands a lot in terms of time

Further research required to draw solid conclusions
From Hamilton: Celebrating 150 Years

Grove Vowless was the second militiaman-settler ashore. His wife Teresa would arrive two months later on the steamer Blue Nose. It was when she got down to Kirikiriroa, the landing spot opposite Grantham Street, that she turned around, handed her baby to the person behind her and walked off through the marsh before standing on the bank to proclaim: “I’m the first white woman in Hamilton.”

Lyn Williams knows Hamilton’s cemeteries by their sunlight. The afternoon is the best time to visit Hamilton East cemetery but the headstones at Hamilton West cemetery face south, so it is best to go in the morning. It is something only a historical researcher of 11 years would have thought about.