

WITH MARK WILSON

# Mr Inappropriate



## I got the dirty ole denim blues

**L**AST Friday night while innocently minding my own business and propped up against a well-maintained shoulder-press machine – gathering the muscular fortitude for another crack at throwing a few weights around – I was approached by a spritely-looking young gentleman who gestured awkwardly for me to remove my headphones.

Not really in the mood for chin-wagging as I was nipple-deep in a great 1980s glam-rock playlist, I begrudgingly removed one headphone in the interests of southern politeness.

“Sir, could you please not wear denim next time you train, it’s not allowed,” he said.

Obviously I’d misheard Spritely, so removing my other headphone I bewilderingly queried back: “What was that mate?”

Spritely kindly repeated his ridiculous statement.

The look on my face must have been something similar to that of Saddam Hussain when unearthed from his wee fox hole hiding place after months on the run... I was basically in a state of shock mixed with disbelief and bewilderment.

I was expecting Spritely to chuckle and tell me it was a joke – or that a camera crew was about to burst out and Ashton Kutcher was going to tell me I’d just been punked?

Telling most Kiwi males, especially difficult buggers like me, they can’t do something is like a red flag to a bull but telling me I can’t wear my beloved denim to the gym is like telling Iran supreme leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei that the prophet Muhammad is just a figment of his imagination and the Koran is about as light on facts as your average tabloid newspaper.

Obviously less than impressed, I asked what possible reason could there be for this crusade against denim? I received a high-quality answer of course.

“It’s in the terms and conditions and the manager is really hot on it at the moment.”

I’ve been in the fitness industry for over a decade. I’ve run gyms, boot camps, trained national teams and been a personal trainer all while proudly wearing an assortment of denim attire. Sure, it’s not the most practical or fashionable but I like it. It’s my own unique gym uniform.

Alpine Health and Fitness – please explain to me why, after four happy denim-clad years as a member and a contractor at your fine facility there is suddenly a problem?

I have watched teenage street rats in low-riding pants wearing chucks trying to do deadlifts... safety hazard? I’ve been distracted by scantily-clad Scandinavian backpackers training in what would barely pass as underwear.

I also unfortunately trained at Peak Fitness in the era of Keith Old’s rubber power-lifting suit. Offensive and dangerous all in one, but simple denim being classed as unsuitable for the gym, that’s just plain inappropriate!

**Mark Wilson** is a Queenstown-based marketing consultant whose levels of shamelessness know no bounds

### Dixon support

**Jimmy697 says:**  
GOOD verdict for a good man. I wish there were more people like you out there who stand up for what he believes is right. Kia kaha.

### Golf support

**Patfam says:**  
CONGRATULATIONS. Well done Michael Hill and John Hart. NZ Golf have obviously realised that you were on to a good thing and had this vision and expertise to make it work. All the best.



Public bleats: ‘Mountain Scene’ story

### Arrowtown up in arms

**Bfg says:**  
OMG! I thought that I had left this sort of bigoted attitude in the UK...but then I am white trash scum who rents in Lake Hayes Estate.

**The beagle says:**  
FOR those who take the time to read council decisions, the 2005 QLDC review of the land now in question stated: “That the council-owned land is a community asset currently in exclusive use by relatively few.” That referred to the private cabins on council-owned land. So what councillors have done is to give 10 people exclusive use of this valuable land at the expense of the community. The review stated it was a community asset, yet councillors ignored this review. As Arrowtown expands in the future, we will regret transferring this valuable asset, irrespective of the purpose that may seem to be a good idea at the time. Affordable housing is a planning issue and council (the ultimate planner) has the power to provide for affordable housing within the existing Arrowtown community. If the question of affordability had been solved by turning parks into housing estates, then let’s also turn Queenstown Gardens, Hagley Park in Christchurch, The Gardens in Dunedin and the Domain in Auck-



land into residential sections for affordable housing.

**Heylee says:**  
HOSPITALITY worker/Fernhill resident. As a representative of your so-called “white trash” society, I’ve worked in hospitality for over 10 years and own a home in Fernhill. I’m horrified to read such comments from members of my greater community. I’ll no longer be spending my hard-earned “white trash” dollar within Arrowtown.

**Thab says:**  
I’M embarrassed for the people who made these comments, I truly am. As a hospitality manager who is on the waiting list for affordable housing, I think it’s a disgrace. Young families who are willing to work damn hard and run the hospitality industry that this town is built on are not “white or black trash”. We manage your hotels, shops and restaurants, run the transport industry that tourists rely on and are the foundation of the industry that supports your town and has led to the inflated price of your Arrowtown homes. We’re the next generation of Queenstowners who have arrived at a time where hospitality wages are so out of line with housing costs the community housing trust is an invaluable option. We work as hard as anyone else albeit on lower wages so do we not deserve to live here? Do we really, in such a small area, discriminate between suburbs as if we’re in a huge city? Are we talking about Brixton, Queens or The Bronx or is this Queenstown and Arrowtown? Please go and read about the scheme on <http://www.qlcht.org.nz/rent-saver/how-it-works/>. We will pay for the house. We won’t run down your area. In fact, I pity the people who’ll be selected to live in these rent-saver houses when complete. They will face pre-conception and bigotry and never be accepted into the community to which they could offer so much. Arrowtown is a small village outside of Queenstown. You should not get carried away with yourselves and you should welcome young, ambitious and hard-working people with open arms.

**Bealeo says:**  
I’M with you bfg... Lake Hayes Estate Trash looks forward to meeting Arrowtown Elitist tossers... I would be ashamed even thinking some of the stuff these folk have said out loud.



Breaking news: ‘Scene’ story

### It’s snag-alicious

**Yea Right says:**  
FEEL like a sausage. I can see the girls who have missed out, a little too much to drink, standing outside Blackballs for a 12-inch sausage, not able to read the menu. Hope it goes well, don’t over-cook it. Try it when I hit town in the next few months.

**Kickevents says:**  
SOUNDS like a great new addition to the lack of choice for late-hours nosh. Can’t wait to try one and a tenner doesn’t sound too bad considering the “gourmet” attention to the menu. For the cheaper option just go and hang around The Warehouse in Frankton on a Saturday morning.

**Heisenberg says:**  
PRETTY pricey sausage. I appreciate the owners’ motivations of giving back to lil’ ol’ Blackball, but \$10-plus for a sausage seems pretty excessive. I was in recently and opted for the basic NZ Beef Sausage at \$9.90. After a five- to seven-minute wait, my not-so-sizzling sausage arrived. The flavour of the sausage was excellent, however after waiting for five minutes I’d have expected it to be a bit warmer; nothing worse than a cold wiener (am I right girls?). The \$1 extra for a dusting of grated cheese seems a bit excessive too. I’ll probably be back – but odds favour me being pissed at the time, and I imagine this will be much of Blackballs’ clientele.

**Tobybear says:**  
JUST heard from someone who has been there that the food was excellent. This is great because until now I had feared the worst.



**1976** The maiden speech in Parliament of newly-elected Otago Central MP Warren Cooper of Queenstown takes up a page in *Mountain Scene*. Dominant themes include criticisms of bureaucratic “over-administration”, plugs for private enterprise, warnings of Domestic Purposes Benefit abuse and a plea to seal Otago highways.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR HISTORY

### A LOOK BACK AT THE MOUNTAIN SCENE ARCHIVES

- 1986** The Local Government Commission provokes community debate over amalgamating Queenstown Borough and Lake County councils. There are 3440 borough residents and 5200 county residents. The amalgamation happened a little later.
- 1996** *Mountain Scene* previews *National Business Review* Rich List featuring seven of the Wakatipu’s wealthy. Michael Hill’s estimated riches total \$35 million, John Martin and the now late Howard Paterson come in at \$20m each, Jim Boulton and Barry Thomas follow at \$15m, John Davies at \$12m – and actor Sam Neill \$10m.
- 2002** Six years on, *NBR*’s local Rich List contains mostly the same names with changing fortunes. Howard Paterson’s wealth is gauged at \$120m, Michael Hill’s at \$100m, John Davies \$25m, John Martin \$30m, and Barry Thomas and Sam Neill at \$20m each. Jim Boulton no longer features while Irish landlord, the late Eamon Cleary, enters the list for the first time at \$40m.
- 2006** Private jet operator Capital Jet Services slams restrictions at Queenstown Airport, predicting “high-end” tourism will be hit. Capital boss Peter Van Dyk claims there will be “no parking” for private jets for another eight months until airport redevelopment is completed.

