

Your single life – Feb 10

Valentine's Day Rant

Thank goodness that's over. Every year single people are targeted in news stories around Valentine's Day, despite the fact that it's a day for loving couples and so, really, has nothing to do with single people.

Stories about how to spend the day if you're single (I'll spend it the same way as any other day), where to meet potential partners (surely the day is targeted at those who've already done that) and asking 'why are you single?' (this one, I particularly loathe because I find there is no good way to respond to the question, Valentine's Day or not).

I've often wondered if I should expect articles around Mothers' Day asking me why am I childless. I don't recall ever seeing such a story. Nor any similar articles for Fathers' Day, Grandparents' Day, St Patrick's Day, or any other so-called "Hallmark Holidays". But I digress.

(Incidentally, I did write to a prominent local newspaper advising them that apparently February 15th was *Singles' Awareness Day*, a day for singles to stand proud and say that it's OK to be single. I didn't see any stories anywhere about that day, did you?)

But, as single people, we are bombarded with comment, advice and rhetoric on the 'problem' of being single. On TVNZ's programme Close Up (Friday 12th), when introducing an item called "Why are you single?" - **to promote a new book** – presenter Mike Hosking said:

'relationship expert John Aiken reckons, if you are [single], there are 15...problem areas which might just explain why. In fact, if you are unattached, you are almost certain to fall into one or more of those categories.'

Having watched the item a few times now, I still find it difficult to find words to describe my feelings about it. To watch the item yourself, go to TVNZ On Demand: www.tvnz.co.nz/close-up/why-you-single-3363131/video

I have complained to TVNZ and Close Up about the slant of the item, but they have a policy of not replying to individual emails.