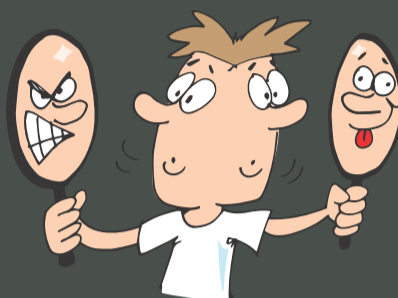




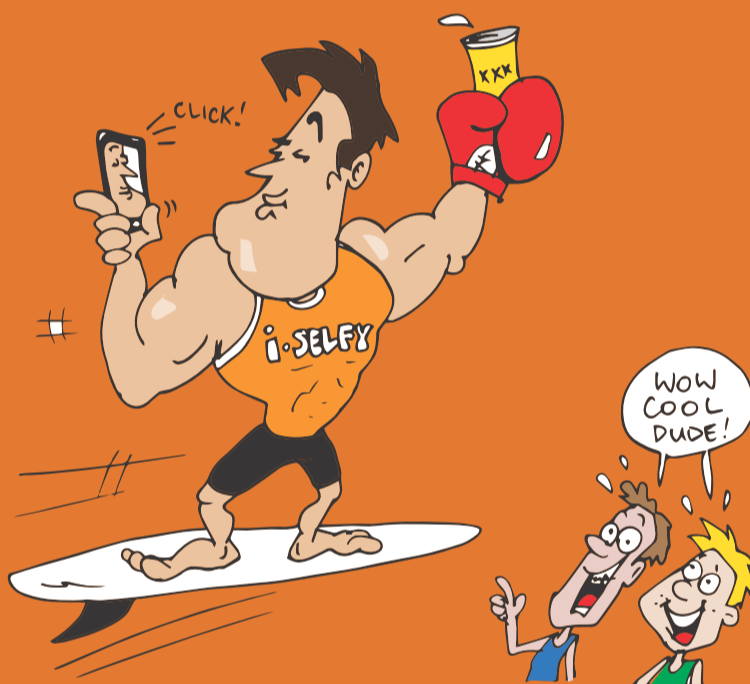
MEN IN CRISIS

Australian men are facing a crisis of identity. Perhaps for the first time in history, large numbers of men, regardless of their age and station in life, are encountering significant problems just being men.

As the battle for gender equality has raged, and women have finally been able to carve out a more equitable place in society, men have struggled to recalibrate. Many of the traditional roles of men as the bread winner and the protector of woman and children appear to be no longer valid, but defining alternate roles for men has not been easy.



Further erosion of men's identity has been fuelled by the media, especially the entertainment and advertising industry, who consistently portray men as simpletons solely focused on their next sexual conquest.



The negative image of men in Aussie society is pervasive, and young men in particular have few, if any, positive male role models to draw upon. In misguided attempts by men to find their place in society some have reverted to the unhealthy patriarchy and domineering chauvinism of a past era, others have opted for an ultra macho image, with violent overtones. Tragically, a surprising number of men have just simply opted out, living in a relational wasteland of failed marriages, abandoned families and purposeless pursuits.



There are some men of course, who despite the cultural change are doing well. They are well-grounded in stable relationships, with satisfying work roles. They are enjoying life, constantly making the behavioural adjustments required to thrive. Unfortunately, statistics tell us these men are a rapidly shrinking minority.

WHAT DO MEN NEED?

What men do not need is more information or more analysis. We already have so much available to us that it usually only serves to confuse more than enlighten. Nor do we need more formulaic solutions. Society is changing so rapidly that formulas are out-of-date soon after they are created.

IS THERE A SOLUTION?

The solution to the challenges in any age is to do what pioneers have always done; to seek something better than what is, to take a step into the unknown even if the road is not clear. To overcome this crisis of male identity we have to take the initiative to create the future that serves us best.

WHAT WE NEED IS EACH OTHER

In simpler times, men worked together and shared their lives. They enhanced their capacity to cope with life, adapt to

the collective wisdom of a bunch of mates. This is what men need to do once again; to create opportunities to share

their lives, not just peer to peer, but also with men with miles under their belts and time at their disposal, and with the emerging generation; getting together for the common good.

Together we can discover our uniqueness and value and celebrate who we are. Together we can learn how to be great husbands and fathers. Together we can carve out the future.

men, to rediscover what it means to be a "good bloke".



WHAT IS A BUNCHOBLOKES



A **BunchOBlokes** is simply a "bunch of blokes" getting together to help each other to not only overcome the challenges facing men in today's society, but to thrive in every aspect of life.

The ultimate goal of BunchOBlokes is that men will discover, accept and celebrate their individual uniqueness and personal value and will encourage one another to be transformed to live a full and satisfying life.

The two core principles of BunchOBlokes are to "Love your neighbour as you love yourself" and, what is often referred to as the Golden Rule, "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you."

Do you currently know other men who may be interested in lending each other a hand? Ask them to join you in navigating the way to a satisfying future together.

HOW TO BECOME A "GOOD BLOKE"

Go to our website www.bunchOblokes.org

We are making the BunchOBlokes: Men Building Men material freely available from a secure website, in exchange for participating group information and acknowledgement of copyright ownership.

BunchOBlokes: Men Building Men principle of cooperation

BunchOBlokes: Men Building Men is a cooperative informal association set up for the creation and distribution of copyright material. Its life and the free use of published material will be dependent upon each participating group's agreement to observe the goals, principles and guidelines published on the website. The ongoing feedback from BOB:MBM groups will be mediated and made available on the website for the purpose of learning from each other's experiences and discoveries, to enhance the lives of men. Our purpose is not to control BOB:MBM groups, but to facilitate them and to use our shared experience and wisdom to enhance the life and experience of each participating group and person.

Participation

The preferred process for the use of BunchOBlokes: Men Building Men material is:

1. Registration of interest on www.bunchOblokes.org
2. Formation of a group of men by one or two blokes who are prepared to provide initial leadership
3. Agreement within the group to adopt the BOB:MBM goals, principles and
4. Access to password protected material and data from the BOB website upon
5. Agreement within your group as to frequency and style of meetings
6. Agreement with your group to report your group experience and some data back to the website, in exchange for access to further material and shared data
7. Hold regular group meetings with the goal of encouraging each other to learn ways of living a satisfying and fulfilling life
8. Encourage the development of other new BOB:MBM groups.

If you are interested, what's holding you back?

Visit our website www.bunchOblokes.org and register

