



Men Building Men Leadership Manual

The Goal

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 Problem

Men are increasingly alienated within contemporary society due to a range of social forces, especially changing gender roles. Much of what men encounter in their search for identity is negative—a catalogue of what is no longer valid or acceptable. Confronted with a lack of positive role models other than celebrities, men often give up in frustration becoming cynical in their outlook on life and averse to any form of long-term responsibility or relational commitment. Whilst self-indulgence, self-loathing and/or pretentious self-righteous religious ideology are the default positions for many, scratch the surface of the vast majority of men and you will uncover a deep desire to know what it means to be a “good bloke” in today’s world. Most men are not happy with who they are or the box into which society has forced them, they want to know what it means to be a good husband, a good father, a good mate; they want to reclaim a positive role in society, but they don’t even know where to begin.

The Need

Men do not need a new ideology or social theory.

Men need to:

- Identify and reclaim valid personal and vocational social roles—in addition to business and sport—that are enriched by faith and hope and enable them to love and to be loved.
- Creatively share practical solutions from the successful experiences of other men, drawing on traditional wisdom intelligently applied to modern social realities to become all they are uniquely equipped to be and to live satisfying, productive lives.
- Be made aware of the effect of cultural norms upon them and to be challenged with contemporary language to break free of the constraints of these norms.
- Become conscious of the need to enhance their whole being: body, soul and spirit.
- Be challenged to become utterly honest with themselves and others, particularly intimate partners.
- Love themselves despite their faulty humanity, and accept that it is okay and in fact necessary to simultaneously be themselves and to seek the best life has to offer.
- Be challenged by one another to identify what they can uniquely contribute to the world around them and to have the courage to do what love requires a man to do.

The Solution

BunchOBlokes : Men Building Men facilitates men to meet informally, but purposefully and regularly, to encourage one another to build strong souls. Men’s souls, the core of who they are, are identified by their passions, which need to be both encouraged and restrained.

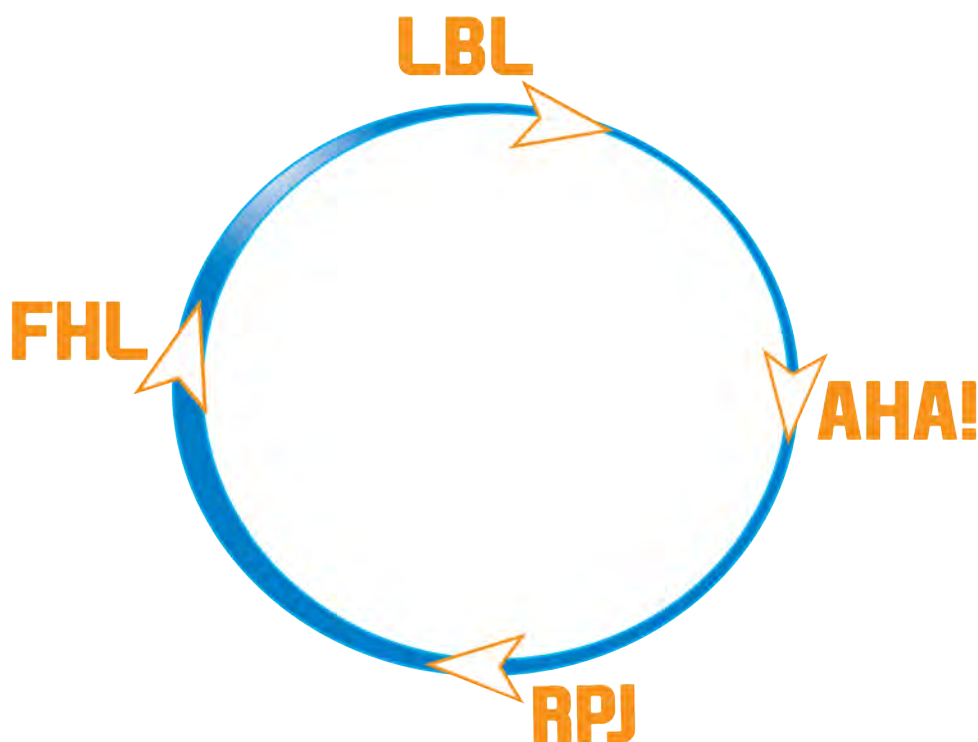
Providing guidance material based upon first-hand experience BOB will to get a process of Men Building Men started with the intention of learning from each other, within a moral framework provided by the Golden Rule, of loving one’s neighbour as oneself.

The Desired Outcome

Men will be liberated to clearly articulate and passionately apply the Golden Rule at the highest level of which they are capable. They will learn of the need to love themselves, then to apply what they have learned to all important relationships. This will result in men being aware of their need for help to overcome blind-spots and blockages to be able to direct their energies and activities toward what is most important and satisfying to them.

Men who have benefitted from this experience and accepted the challenge of transformation to become a good bloke will desire to encourage other men to do the same thing.

The cycle of graceful transformation



On the outside, looking in. We begin as observers of our own lives, on the outside looking in. As we begin to see ourselves objectively, we also see what is good and satisfying and what is not so good. This is an ordinary process of relationship as men share their lives, against what they find to be most satisfying.

LBL is experiencing love and self-acceptance, of *loving and being loved*

FHL is our expression of desire to be reconciled in our relationships to God and others, by investing the deposit of *faith, hope and love* that we have within us.

AHA! represents our *awakening, honesty and action* in response to the prompting of the spirit of God

RPJ is the *righteousness, peace and joy* that we experience when God's spirit works within us rewarding our faith with grace.

This cycle has a beginning, but it does not end, as we need to be constantly liberated from our self-deceit that nothing needs to change at all, until we finally acknowledge that life as we have experienced it could be better, and we need to change to make it so.

The BOB implementation strategy

BOB: MBM will drive men who are interested to a website, initially by distributing a brochure among existing networks.

The brochure will ask men to go to the BOB website and select a How to Become a Good Bloke key that will explain the BOB:MBM Project Outline in terms of: The Problem, The Goal, The Need, The Solution and The Desired Outcome.

Men interested in starting a BOB group, will download the BOB:MBM Project Outline, together with the Principle of Cooperation and the Participation Agreement, to present to their proposed group, for their agreement.

Upon return to the website, the BOB: MBM Group founder acknowledges the Participation Agreement, and receives a password that allows access to:

BOB: MBM Guide Topics

Initial Leadership Guides include a series for leaders beginning with Getting Started; Servant Leadership; Planning and Preparation.

Upon completion of the Initial Leadership Guides, the leader returns to the website, and in exchange for some data about the size and composition of their group. They then download the topics in Series 1 Participant Discussion Guides (as per the Guide Topics Table).

The process is repeated to access three Series 2 Participant Guides. When they are completed, the leader returns to the website and in exchange for data about how well the individual Guides were received, problems encountered and suggestions for improvements or new topics, downloads the next series of Guides.

Evolution of BOB:MBM principles, processes and documents

BOB:MBM Principles will be regularly reviewed and updated on the website. Compliance with Guidelines will not be compulsory, unless non-compliance breaches an important Principle, such the use of copyright material.

Evolution of BOB: MBM Guides

Guides will be updated in response to feedback and discovery of further need. Leaders will be emailed re important changes to Principles or Guides. There will be no compulsion on participants to acknowledge any changes, unless there was an essential change that would be reflected in the Principles of Informal Association.

Meeting Men's Needs

Men's needs are important to them as individuals, but they are often not catered for within society outside of work and sport, other than in clubs and pubs, where the nature of support is not always beneficial or comprehensive. To identify and meet men's needs, they should get together with the intention of objectively but informally supporting and encouraging each other to find out what our needs really are, and how to respond to them.

Because:

- Men need to know that they are significant, more than just their wealth, power and social position indicates.
- Men need to know that there is a proven way forward based on traditional wisdom that has been taken by millions throughout history.
- Men need each other to meet the demands associated with the rate of change in the modern world, as they can face much more together than they can alone.
- Men need to understand, accept and value themselves and progressively re-define their role as this is fundamental to the well-being of their families and society as a whole.
- Men need to learn to lead and to follow.
- Men need to discover the needs of their own soul and spirit, not just their minds.
- Men need to be significant as individuals. Each one is important to the whole and has a story to tell.
- Men need to be well-informed to deal with the realities of the world courageously.
- Men need mates. Most of the really useful things we know, we have learned from someone who cared for us.
- You get what you go after. If you want to have a rich and satisfying life, you need to know what it is and how to go after it!

Values

Every man is a unique individual much loved by the creator of life (God), to whom we are accountable to become productive and loving providers and protectors of those given to us for our care and mutual enjoyment. Each of us has been invited to see and love ourselves as God sees and loves us, so becoming all that God has created us to be. We do this by following Jesus (God's son) and applying his teaching and example to our life.

We begin each day with gratitude, optimism and hope, passionately and intelligently seeking after what is good and life-giving for ourselves and for others, that which provides meaning and purpose and satisfies our souls with relationships rich in peace and enjoyment.

As we follow Jesus with faith, hope and love we are not alone in this task. We depend on each other to learn, encourage and warn, guiding one another toward love and good works.

As leaders have the great privilege of caring for and influencing others with humility and patience. None of us may make demands upon others, but rather, always treat others as we would like to be treated, seeking to learn by being quick to listen and slow to speak with a

strong mind and a light heart, knowing that the grace we have received, is the grace we have to give.

Reference to God and the Golden Rule.

BOB:MBM is designed to be presented in a wide range of religious and non-religious contexts, where frequent reference to the authority of scripture, may or may not be recognised. We believe that the Golden Rule of Jesus, *love others as you love yourself* (and his related maxim *do for others what you would want them to do for you*) is the primary principle to which we must refer, which in turn, refers to God as the ultimate source of love, creative power, authority and accountability. Because BOB:MBM is designed to be entirely practical, it is possible to maintain a group without detailed reference to scripture, other than to acknowledge the reliability of the Golden Rule as a maxim, and God as a numinous creative being, who desires for us that we live our lives to the full, within the limits of the Golden Rule.

Group Principles

Discussion on any subject is encouraged as a non-threatening way of learning and sharing. It should be lead objectively by the use of life experiences, books, notes and videos. Business and sport should be included, but should not become the major focus. Politics should be included, but partisan or divisive views should not be encouraged once they have been expressed.

Dogmatic or sectarian views are allowed for discussion, but should not be allowed to become divisive or to replace other guidelines.

Truth telling. The truth is out there and is available to a diligent seeker. We should always attempt to discover truth and to tell the truth to each other.

Scripture is an authoritative and reliable source of truth and knowledge of God and of the needs of our souls.

Membership is open to any group or person by subscription to the BOB:MBM group's website, and agreement to follow the guidelines.

Faith in God according to the Christian scriptures and traditions is encouraged, but not mandatory for participation.

Prayer. Prayer is an important aspect of pure worship of God. It is always grateful, hopeful and humble, both expressing our sorrow for our sin and for our individual needs, and gratitude for grace already received. Prayer is not mandatory for BOB: MBM groups, but should be in the habit of asking for prayer, and praying for each other.

Meeting style and frequency. Meetings should be informal but held regularly to encourage one another to build strong souls.

Group leadership. Group leaders should be willing to facilitate group formation and organisation, without wanting to dominate the group, or being the expert on all subjects. Leadership should be more informal than formal, with the leadership often changing hands, to stimulate others, and to prevent the group becoming dependent upon one person to lead.

Truthfulness. If there is one quality upon which BOB:MBM groups depend, it is truthfulness.

Confidentiality. All things shared in BOB:MBM groups are to be treated as confidential and can only be shared beyond the group with the permission of those who have shared.

Group Formation

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 guidelines. Confirmation of agreement back to the website
4. Access to password protected material and data from BOB website upon confirmation of agreement
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.

Principles of Association

Copyright ownership

BunchOBlokes: Men Building Men, ABN: 17738768647, is the legal owner of www.bunchOblokes.org.

It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Christian Community Churches in Victoria and Tasmania (CCCVaT). It is the creation of Warren Mills and David Wraight, supported by Phil Munday, for the benefit of men of all religious and non-religious associations.

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

BOB:MBM is a cooperative informal association set up for the creation and distribution of copyright material. Its effectiveness and the free use of published material will be dependent upon 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 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.

Publication Content Mediation & Authorisation

The creators mediate and authorise the content of all copyright publications.

Accountability

The creators are accountable to CCCVaT to the extent of the development and implementation of the BOB:MBM program.

Basis of Authorisation. The creators hold ourselves accountable to the authority of scripture and ultimately to God for our interpretation, application and personal behaviour relating to all BOB:MBM activities. As such, we welcome any criticism with the caveat that we are not conducting church services or making dogmatic doctrinal statements on behalf of CCCVaT or other entities or persons, other than ourselves.

We acknowledge that some BOB: MBM statements and practices will not be conventional and ask for forbearance with regard to criticism, which we ask to always to be constructive and enhancing of the achievement of the core purpose and goal of BOB:MBM.