For what it’s worth

Jeff Dowsing mulls over male hairstyle evolution

‘I blame Billy Ray Cyrus. Achy Breaky Heart was the wrecking ball, when “peak mullet” was attained.’

Here’s a fearless fashion prediction for you: Mullets will be back in business by Christmas.

This will happen, or at least I’m willing it to happen!

Sure, beards and mo’s were a lark, worn ironically with a nostalgic nod to simpler times when bushwhackers and Dennis Lillie reigned supreme. But as recent studies contend, we’ve hit “peak beard” (when facial hair becomes the norm rather than rare, thus no longer cool or desirable). Nonetheless, it baffles how any female tolerates kissing a schnauzer.

My theory is that the tide going out on soap snot mops and snout maps demands another male grooming gimmick take their place. The past informs the future, and since range Bowie pioneered an early 1970s incarnation (followed by the mid 1980s to early ’90s free-for-all) the fashion cycle points to an overdue mullet renaissance.

Thinking back to the mullet’s last demise, I blame Billy Ray Cyrus. Achy Breaky Heart was the wrecking ball, when “peak mullet” was attained and could no longer be equated with goodness.

Cyranos has a lot to answer for — putting it in a ponytail, infecting that pudend earworn, conceiving that daughter. Urrgh!

I must confess to mullet bias, having sported one myself back in the day, when INXS was at the height of their powers. Then you had the awesomeness of Farneys, Bon Jovi, Swayze, Mac ny, Bono, Warwick Capper, Lumb, Jon Roxus.... OK, I’m reaching, but the less flamboyant garden variety “mudflap” was so de rigueur as to nary warrant a second glance.

Yes, the worst specimens are worthy of ridicule, but at least they’re not so in-your-face as ugly face-fuzz. I say the hairstyle has a rock-star quality.

Beards and ‘taches simply do not, they just make a guy look 10 years older. No thanks.

What’s more, for too long filthy wealthy Donald Trump types have been getting away with a finely quaffed derivative. Mullets should be reclaimed and worn proudly by the common people.

If Family Feud had a place on 2014 TV, for Rob Brough’s sake, the mullet must rise up and retake its place in saloons across the lands. Besides, the sneaky prevalence of man buns must be eradicated.

I might not be livin’ on a prayer, leading the charge. But I will keep the faith.

Jeff Dowsing is a mulletless freelance writer currently considering his options.

Steering men clear of the buffer zone

Kellie Scott

In a world of shirtless gym selfie and #fitness and Fabtastic hashtags, it’s no wonder guys are feeling the pressure to bulk up.

Young men can be seen on social media flexing muscles at music festivals, nightclubs and even on the street, but behind the bulk could be insecurity.

University of Newcastle sociologist Dr Julia Coffey recently conducted a study into young women and men’s ideas about health and discovered the dangerous rise of buff culture.

“The current ideal image of men as being toned and muscular is seen as the natural way that men should be... but it’s quite a new phenomenon and specific to Western cultures,” Coffey said.

She said both men and women can obsess over body issues.

“Men and women have described it (body issues) the same way to me. One guy was saying he saw footballers running around and that’s what he wanted to look like,” Coffey said.

“Women will say the same things about looking at magazines. The difference is men don’t usually acknowledge it.”

Coffey acknowledged it is great to be healthy but she said buff culture has a harmful focus on just appearance.

“It’s about much more than image,” she said.

In with a chance to play Valley

Jazz-influenced singer Erin Fitzsimon thinks you should give Inigo a go. What began as a duet evolved into an interchangeable collection of local talent, with Inigo now finalists in the Valley Fiesta mX Local Love Competition. Vote at valleyfesta.com/locallove.

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