

# BEAUMARIS UNITING CHURCH

## FRIDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

### *“ENJOYING TIME OUT WITH FRIENDS TO EXPLORE NEW IDEAS”*

**History:** The group began in the late 80's as a group of mothers who had dropped their children at the Beaumaris Primary School and stood around chatting to each other. With the assistance of a St Martin's elder and the minister of the day, they decided to meet at St Martin's where they could relax and talk over morning tea whilst another member of the congregation was paid to look after the pre-school children. The group evolved from a weekly Friday meeting chat group to a forum where meatier issues are discussed. The group has aged as the years marched on and the discussions too have changed accordingly.

**Currently** we meet monthly on the first Friday of the month in the sunny back foyer of St Martin's Beaumaris Uniting Church or one of the meeting rooms, gathering at 9.30am. We don't generally meet during school holidays. On a rotating basis we provide a simple morning tea and the discussion topic for the day.

**Demographically** we are women and by definition not working in full time paid employment. Historically attrition has generally been due to a change or increase in paid employment hours. Our age range is mostly 45 plus plus. The group is not exclusive to St Martin's or to mums. We welcome anyone who would like 2 hours of lively discussion and debate on current issues and ideas that relate to the members of the group or society in general.

**What do we discuss?** A huge array of topics! Some of the issues and ideas covered in recent times include:

- Forced adoption in the UK and Australia prior to the 1970s
- Living and Nursing in Papua New Guinea & the US
- Life changing developments that have influenced our lives and how our lives have been different to those of our mothers and grandmothers
- The Changing Face of our Suburbs – Black Rock in the depression years and beyond
- Who would you like to have a conversation with and why?
- Half the Sky – book by Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn – Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide – Economic Empowerment of Women
- Why conscientiousness counts!
- Hope – what is it and is it a fundamental human emotion?
- Is your brain Male or Female?
- Issues of Continence
- Changes in our Life Styles - Greeted by a selection of Sound of Music costumes - we had to change our own image and hear of the many changes in the early life of the real Maria on whom the film The Sound of Music is based.
- Excursions in past years have included the Australian Botanical Gardens at Cranbourne and also the Australian Islamic Museum

### **What do we get out of the group?**

- A sense of connection and community with others who share part of our journey in life
- Relaxed time out with friends
- Exposure and education – a chance to explore new ideas and perspectives
- A diversity of cultural backgrounds
- A support group during crisis

We always welcome new faces so please join us on the first Friday of each month at 9.30am.

**Contact** Alison Davies on 0409 893 027 or  
Margaret Thorburn on 9583 7844 or 0404 683 116