

## GUEST SPEAKER : HEATHER BAIGENT

Heather Baigent is a former teacher, diplomat, corporate manager and international consultant. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1977 and had overseas postings in Samoa, Indonesia and China. In 1993, she moved to Auckland as International Manager for New Zealand's Technical Accreditation Authority and, in 1999, set up her own business, consulting internationally in trade facilitation. She has also served on export-related Business Councils. In 2017, she was President of U3A St Heliers and, in December, was elected as President of the Auckland U3A Network.

### *Reminiscences of a Diplomat*

Heather was fortunate in having three fascinating diplomatic postings, all in developing countries in our part of the world – Asia Pacific. She was in Samoa during a period of tension in relations with New Zealand, in Indonesia as President Soeharto sought to develop that vast nation and was Deputy Head of Mission in China during “interesting times”, following the tragic events in Tiananmen Square. She will share personal anecdotes of her experiences in the service of New Zealand overseas.