

## **NZFGW Member Louise Croot is elected President**

**NZFGW is delighted and honoured to announce that LOUISE CROOT**, from Dunedin, has been elected president of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

Louise is looking forward to the challenge of working with this international body of women with members in more than 80 countries. She will enjoy working at an international level with members of the IFUW Board, based in Geneva, and with Standing Committees, who come from countries including India, Great Britain, Rwanda, Canada, South Africa, Switzerland, Nigeria and Turkey.

After her six years' experience as vice-president of IFUW, Louise is looking forward to the challenges ahead of her and is well equipped to face them. She wants to focus IFUW even more strongly on higher education for women and intends to take up opportunities to make focused interventions at the UN, where IFUW has consultative status with ECOSOC, UNESCO and other bodies. She will base IFUW's work for women on human rights and gender equality.'

A continuing priority for the organisation is supporting and creating educational opportunities for women, from basic educational needs in third world and developing countries to support for students studying at doctoral level in countries such as New Zealand.

Louise is currently an elected member of the Otago Regional Council and has sound experience in governance and team management. Her experience in public affairs includes being an elected member of the University of Otago Council and the Otago Hospital Board. She is a member and past President (1994-95) of NZFGW Otago, belongs to Rural Women NZ, and is a trustee of the Southern Heritage Trust and, more recently, the Community Trust of Otago.

In 2002 Louise received the Public Health Champion of New Zealand Award from the NZ Public Health Association. Her work in health has focused on implementing the Ottawa Charter through the WHO programme Healthy Cities, Healthy Communities.

Louise is the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand woman to become president of IFUW, an organisation founded in 1919 after the end of World War 1. Dame Daphne Purves, also from Dunedin, was IFUW president from 1977–80.

