

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4331

Boelke, Grace Fairley

(1870 - 1948)

Born	18700101, Sydney New South Wales Australia
-------------	--

Died	19481231, Sydney New South Wales Australia
-------------	--

Occupation	Doctor, Surgeon
-------------------	-----------------

Summary

Grace Boelke was one of the first women medical graduates of the University of Sydney. Founder of the Professional Women's Association, she was a strong advocate of improved conditions for women.

During her lifetime, Boelke held positions in a variety of community organisations, including:

Vice-President, Town Planning Organisation of New South Wales
Convenor, Standing Committee on Health, National Council of Women of New South Wales
Vice-President, Australian League of Nations (New South Wales branch)

Events

1892 - 1892

Appointed resident medical officer at the Maternity Hospital of the Sydney Benevolent Society. Later in her career she was employed by the NSW Government Department of Public Instruction in the medical branch and at Berlei Limited as Medical Director

1912 - 1912

Formed the Professional Women's Association, which aimed to bring together professional women interested in improving the conditions of women and children

1893 - 1893

Graduated from the University of Sydney with the degrees Bachelor of Medicine (MB) and Master of Surgery (ChM). She and Iza Coghlan were the first women medical graduates of the University of Sydney

1894 - 1894

Married Paul Wilhlem Boelke (1863-1923, born Berlin), also a doctor

1924 - 1924

Travelled to Britain and the United States to investigate hygienic research work, especially in relation to women and children

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book

Pioneer Women Graduates of the University of Sydney 1881-1921, Bygott, Ursula and Cable, Kenneth John, 1985

Archival resources

University of Sydney, Archives

Personal archives of BOELKE nee ROBINSON Grace Fairley [1870-1948] & BOELKE Paul Wilhelm Randolph [1863-1923]

Author Details

Isobelle Barrett Meyering

Created 28 July 2025

Last modified 28 July 2025