

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE4331

## Boelke, Grace Fairley

(1870 - 1948)

<b>Born</b>	18700101, Sydney New South Wales Australia
<b>Died</b>	19481231, Sydney New South Wales Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	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** 26 January 2026

**Last modified** 26 January 2026