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The new board is named in honour of Margaret Whyte (1868-1946) who, with Clara Stone, was one of the first women to graduate in medicine from the University of Melbourne and one of the first locally-trained women registered to practise medicine in Australia.

Margaret Whyte was one of the year's top five students, collecting first prize and scholarships in two fields. Her academic success infuriated the men, and even though the top five students in the honours list were automatically offered residencies at the (now Royal) Melbourne Hospital, she was excluded. She compromised and went to the Women's Hospital. All the new women medical graduates found themselves forced to go to the Women's hospital for their residencies, to the extent that the (largely female) board of the hospital took fright at the number of women graduates seeking appointments and by 1896 resolved that it would, on principle, appoint a man over a woman if their abilities and qualifications were equal.

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