

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4191

Rowland, Caroline Ann

(1852 - 1921)

Born 31 December, 1852, Kentish Town London England

Died 11 March, 1921, Sydney New South Wales Australia

Occupation Religious Leader, Teacher

Summary

Caroline Rowland was an English born, German trained nun of the Ursuline order who made profession in October 1873, taking the religious name Mary Cordula. A casualty of the 1877 Falk laws that dissolved and/or expelled teaching religious orders throughout the German Empire, she returned from Germany to England in 1878 where she helped to establish, in Greenwich, a school for girls which still flourishes under the Ursulines.

In 1882, after accepting an invitation from Bishop Elzear Torreggiani to come to Australia, twelve sisters, including Sister Cordula, arrived in Sydney, to join him in the vast diocese of Armidale in northern New South Wales. They arrived in the inland town on 12 September, 1882. Here they established a day and boarding school for girls which grew rapidly: St Ursula's College, Armidale, drew its students from all over New South Wales and Queensland and even from Victoria. They also took responsibility for the parochial primary school which had existed under lay administration since the 1850s.

Sister Cordula proved herself to be an adaptable and energetic teacher, business woman and administrator. She held various offices in the religious community: treasurer several times after 1885, superior (1898-1904 and 1905-11) and mistress general of the boarding school (1911-19).

She was well loved and much admired, and developed a reputation as a fair and broadminded person. Her friendly manner endeared her to the members of her own religious community as well as to the wider local community.

Published resources

Book

This land of promise : the Ursuline Order in Australia, 1882-1982, Kneipp, Pauline, 1982

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Archives of the Australian Ursulines

[Archives of the Ursulines of the Roman Union](#)

Author Details

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