

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** PR00089

## Archdall, Martha Caroline Christine

(1851 - 1949)

<b>Born</b>	26 December, 1851, Stettin Germany
<b>Died</b>	31 December, 1949, Melbourne Victoria Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Founder, Teacher

### Summary

With her husband, clergyman Mervyn Archdall, Martha pushed for the establishment of a deaconess institution at Balmain, New South Wales, in 1885. *Bethany* was opened in 1891 with Canon Archdall as director. It was Martha who opened a parish school, and by 1900 *Bethany* had schools at Balmain, Lewisham, Dapto and Bega.

### Details

Martha Kaasow was born at Stettin, Germany – now Szczecin, Poland – and married Mervyn Archdall in 1882. The pair moved to Balmain, New South Wales, where they instigated the building of a deaconess institution. Mervyn Archdall was rector at Balmain, and became director of the deaconess institution, 'Bethany', when it opened in 1891. Martha opened the parish school, with school fees and one quarter of her husband's stipend supporting Bethany. By 1900, new schools in Lewisham, Lawson, Dapto and Bega were also supporting the institution.

Martha Archdall ran an employment agency in Darlinghurst and developed another in Balmain for women and children from the Bethany Homes. She moved to Melbourne after the death of her husband in 1917.

### Published resources

#### Edited Book

The Australian Dictionary of Evangelical Biography, Dickey, Brian, 1994

#### Journal Article

Attitudes to the ministry of women in the diocese of Sydney: an historical study 1884-1893, Rodgers, M., 1980

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Author Details

Nikki Henningham

**Created** 21 September 2009  
**Last modified** 23 September 2009