

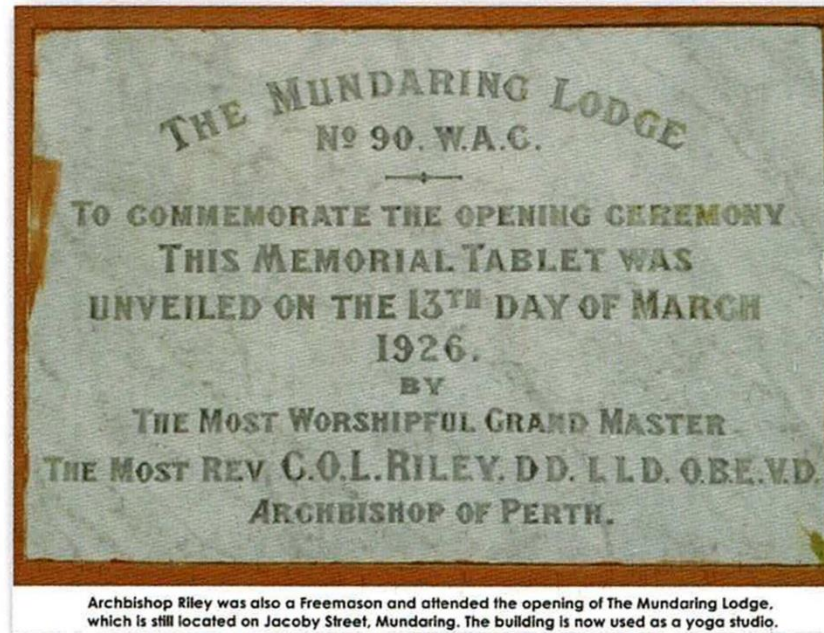
Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc.



If you wander around the Shire of Mundaring's Anglican Churches and look at their foundation stones, one name consistently appears: Bishop Charles Owen Leaver Riley, later Archbishop of Perth, in office 1894-1929. Have you ever wondered who this man was? His biography reveals someone whose interests and influence spanned not only oversight of what in 1894 was the largest Anglican diocese in the world - with an area of one million square miles - but also social welfare, tertiary education, Freemasonry, and cultural matters.

Born in England in 1854, Riley was Perth's third Anglican Bishop. On arriving in WA in 1895, he was confronted by a diocese with limited financial and human resources but that was also rapidly expanding due to the gold rushes. He travelled extensively throughout his diocese and oversaw the authorisation of many new parishes as well as completion of Perth's St Georges Cathedral.

Riley's strong community profile resulted in his attending the 1911 Coronation of King George V in the UK. He was Chancellor of UWA from 1916 to 1922 and President of the Board of Trustees for Perth's new Library, Museum, and Art Gallery from 1920 until his death in 1929. He was Grand Master of the WA Grand Lodge on two occasions.



Riley's military involvement in WW1 is also noteworthy. In 1916 he was appointed Anglican Chaplain General of the AIF. Later that year he visited soldiers in France. On his return home, his ship was torpedoed by a German submarine in the Mediterranean, resulting in c. 130 deaths. Riley survived and returned to WA with his views on the importance of conscription strengthened.

At Riley's state funeral in 1929, over 30 000 people watched the procession. Newspapers noted his funeral attracted 'rich

and poor, high and low, and all descriptions of nationalities and religions'.

The local churches Riley either consecrated or laid foundation stones for include: St Andrew's Church, Glen Forrest (1903); St Mark's Church, Mount Helena (1907); Church of the Good Shepherd, Bellevue (1909); Church of the Epiphany, Mundaring (1914); and of course St Cuthbert's Church, Darlington (1924).

Next General Meeting of the MHHS takes place
20 November, 2pm 2021, Boya Community Centre.