

Rev Edward Rogers

The second rector for Camden was Rev Edward Rogers who has been described as “an Evangelical rather than a Broad churchman”. Like his predecessor, Rev Rogers is being described as a Macarthur man. The Macarthur family actually had a say in the appointment of the first three rectors at St Johns.

The Rev Edward Rogers was born in 1812 and ordained a Deacon by the Bishop of Salisbury, England, in 1837. He arrived in Sydney on the ‘Layton’ on 19th January 1838. Rogers was among seven clergy who had been recruited in England by The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

On his arrival he was appointed to the parish of Brisbane Waters, and was priested by Bishop Broughton in 1839. He stayed in Brisbane Waters until 1848 and was appointed to Camden on 1st August 1848.

Rev Rogers oversaw the completion of building works at St Johns and the consecration of the Church on 7th June 1849.

On the 1st July 1850 the foundation stone for St John’s Parochial School was laid by Bishop Broughton. The school was located at the corner of Broughton and Hill Streets, and was built with financial aid from the Denominational Schools Board. By 1855, when Henry Reeves was headmaster, nearly 140 pupils were enrolled, and it was the most successful school in the district. The school continued until 1879 when the headmaster and pupils moved to the new National Public School in Camden, at the corner of John and Mitchell Streets, where the Camden Public School continues today.

Rev Rogers also took a leading part in the founding of the National school (as opposed to a church school) at Westbrook (now Mt Hunter). He strongly believed that National schools (non-secretarian schools) had a place beside those of his own church.

Edward Rogers was outstanding and tireless in his pastoral work and remained at Camden for 10 years until his appointment to Holy Trinity, the Garrison Church at the Rocks Sydney from 1st August 1858