**71 CHELTENHAM ROAD, CHELTENHAM (“Strathsprey”)**

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Lot 1 DP 966602

Sands Directories 1915-1932/33 Rev. Robert Dey “Strathsprey”

Electoral Roll 1933: Robert Dey No. 71

**Hornsby Shire Council details**

**Heritage Register: (NONE)**

Part of Beecroft & Cheltenham – Land for Sale Subdivision 1906

“Strathsprey” is named after the region around the strath of the River Spey, Scotland.]

Robert & Elizabeth Dey were living at “Strathsprey,” Cheltenham, since 1907.

*At Fochabers, Scotland, on April 3, 1874, the Rev. Robert Dey, minister of the Congregational Church. Nairn, was married to Elizabeth Johnston Dewar, third daughter of the Rev. David Dewar, minister of the Free Church of Scotland. The marriage was celebrated by the father of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Dr. McNeill (brother-in-law of the bride).*

**Rev. Dr. Robert Dey**



In 1918 occurred the death of Dr. Robert Dey jnr., son of Robert & Elizabeth Dey, at the home of his brother, David Dey, at Denistone, of liver disease, after an illness of three years.

His wife and two children resided at “Strathsprey” during his final two weeks.

He had previously been attended to at the North Sydney residence of his brother, Dr. Lindsay Dey.

Dr. Dey was a one-time resident of Wilcannia, where he married. He then moved to Bourke where he was an alderman and Mayor of Bourke in 1903. He was well-known in every town from Broken Hill to Walgett.

In 1916 he acted as medical officer at Holdsworthy and other military camps, and given the rank of Captain. Relinquishing the A.M.C., he acquired the Walgett practice in 1917.

In 1923 Robert Dey (senior) was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor in Divinity by

the University of Edinburgh - his Alma Mater - and the McGill University of Toronto, Canada.

In 1930 the Rev. Robert Dey, B.D., celebrated his 82nd birthday at his Cheltenham home.

An extensive report on his career contained the following information:

*Dr. Dey was born in Inverurie, Aberdeen shire, Scotland on August 4, 1848 He went to school at Banffshire at the age of four and continued there until October, 1867 when he obtained a scholarship in connection with the theological Hall of Congregational Churches (Scotland), which entitled him to attend the Edinburgh University for four years.*

*On October 1, 1880, he left London tor Melbourne on a year's leave of absence, due to health reasons, from his congregation but when he arrived In Melbourne he was strongly advised by Dr. Bird, a great medical authority in those days, to give up the Idea of returning to Scotland.*

*After two years with the Victoria-parade Congregational Church, Melbourne, he accepted a posting to Marrickville, Sydney.*

*In July, 1888, he became home secretary of the Congregational Union of NSW. This position he held until October 1894 when he resigned that post, and also the editorship of the “Australian Independent," the organ of the Congregational body, which he had held for eight or nine years.*

*About 1892 he had purchased the "Australian Christian World," and in 1894 he took over the editorship of the paper himself. He then took over and amalgamated with it the following journals: "The Protestant Standard" (Sydney), "The Australian Weekly" (Melbourne), "The Christian Colonist" (Adelaide), and "The Southern Cross" (Melbourne).*

*Since arriving in Cheltenham, he had been honorary pastor of the Congregational church there for a considerable time.***1**

In 1934, at “Strathsprey,” Elizabeth Johnston Dey, wife of Robert Dey, died, aged 82 years.

In an address by the Rev. W. H. Bain, it was said that Mrs. Dey was a great woman, and she had lived a beautiful life.

A stained-class window was Installed In memory of the late Mrs. Robert Dey in the Cheltenham Congregational Church

In 1936 the Rev. Dr. Robert Dey, of Cheltenham-road, died at St. Luke’s Private Hospital, aged 89 years. Hed had just returned from a visit to North Queensland.

He had been proprietor and editor of the “Australian Christian World” for about 30 years. In this capacity, and by his extensive travelling, he kept in touch with religious leaders throughout Australia, and he exercised a great influence in Church circles.

He was survived by three sons: Mr. David Dewar Dey, of Robert Dey, Son, and Company, Dr. Lindsay Dey, of North Sydney, Mr. John Dewar Dey, of Parramatta and two daughters - Mrs. F. S. Stuckey, of Mosman, and Mrs. A. H. Hinton, of Chatswood. His eldest son, Robert Dey junior had died in 1918.2

He was one of the founders of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of N.S.W. in 1913 and remained active on the Society’s Board until his death when he was Vice-President of the Society.**3**

In 1937 a memorial window was unveiled in the Cheltenham Congregational Church by Dr. Lindsay Dey, one of his sons. The window, depicting "The Good Shepherd," was a companion of one erected previously in memory of Mrs. Dey.

“Strathsprey” was re-occupied and in July 1937 Margaret Ashenden, widow of Benjamin Ashenden, died there.

**Bibliography:**

1 Sydney Morning Herald, 5th August 1930

2 Sydney Morning Herald, 1st August 1936

3[Robert Dey — Deaf in New South Wales: A Community History (deafinnsw.com)](http://deafinnsw.com/robert-dey/)

**Resources available (varies):**

* Sands Directories 1858-1933 City of Sydney [Sands Postal Directory | City of Sydney Archives (nsw.gov.au)](https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/495003)
* Newspaper articles – TROVE - [Search - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers)
* Ancestry.com (subscription only) [Genealogy, Family Trees and Family History Records online - Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com.au/) – Sands Directories, Electoral Rolls, Family photos (Public Member photos), Census lists, marriage details, + miscellaneous
* N.S.W. Births, Deaths & Marriages [Family history search | NSW Government](https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search) (QLD & Victoria also obtainable online)
* House photos and information via Hornsby Shire Council website for Property Search and Heritage Register [Heritage | Hornsby Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)](https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property/build/heritage)
* House photos and associated information via Internet search on address via Real Estate websites (from 2005)
* “Beecroft and Cheltenham Heritage Walks” - Beecroft-Cheltenham History Group Inc. 2004 book (1st edition)
* Australian War Museum website [Home | Australian War Memorial (awm.gov.au)](https://www.awm.gov.au/)