

How I became a Teacher, in the 1930's.

Towards the end of the School year, it was always the normal practice for students who wished to become teachers, to apply for a student teacher position in any of the states primary schools as a junior teacher. The minimum Qualification was a pass in 7 leaving subjects. English was a compulsory subject. (1930's)

Each time a medical officer visited our school, we were always asked what we wanted to be when we grew up. I had always replied that I wished to be a school Teacher. When the time came for me to present myself for medical examination, I did so, to receive the first big set back of my life. I failed my eyesight test.

I went over in my mind all the medicals I had over the last 12 years, never dreaming that the same medical officer (Dr. Christie) would fail me, in my 12th year. However, he did assure me that if I could get another doctor to pass me, then he would O.K. me for a teaching position. I went immediately to see Dr. Doster on North Terrace and told him that I would like a medical certificate from him. He looked up my past records, and was only too happy to oblige. So Rohan, that is how I past my eyesight test for the Education Dept.

(Cummins)
My appointment was to Cummins, and I was given a warrant for boat and train travel to Eyre Peninsula. Before I left Adelaide, the relevant Dept officials assured me that the H.T. at Cummins school knew that I was coming. The truth was that NO ONE knew I was coming, and no one was at the railway station to meet me.

Regards from Granpy. 10/6/94