

Local history collections

A recent publication to add to your local history collection is *Hunter's River* by Cecily Joan Mitchell. This is an updated and redesigned edition of the original produced in 1973. The cost is \$25.00 which includes postage and copies are available from Miss C. N. Dent, Yambawoota, Lostock, NSW 2311.

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Library Staff & the Community Employment Program

In July this year, the NSW Association of TAFE Library Staff wrote to the NSW Minister for Employment, Mr R. J. Debus, requesting recognition of the importance of providing work experience for library workers in the public sector, especially in relation to the allocation of CEP grants. A copy of the Minister's reply is reprinted below.

The LAA has recently become aware of instances where qualified library staff have not been readily available to fill CEP vacancies. Members seeking work are urged to register with the CES to ensure their eligibility for CEP positions in libraries when they become available.

Figures obtained from the CEP Secretariat show that in the period since the inception of the Community Employment Program (ie 1 August 1983) to 23 September 1985, 931 persons were employed under CEP grants in library and related occupations around Australia. These included 148 Librarians and 109 Library Technicians.

Louise Lansley

Industrial Information & Research Officer

Ms B. Burgess,
Chairperson,
NSW Association of TAFE Library Staff
c/- Library,
Bankstown College of TAFE,
500 Chapel Road,
BANKSTOWN 2200

Dear Ms Burgess,
Thank you for your letter of 31 July 1985 regarding unemployment amongst library workers.

As a major initiative of the Commonwealth and State Governments, the Community Employment Program is designed to create additional short-term employment opportunities for people most disadvantaged in the labour market, particularly the long-term unemployed.

Information gained from Commonwealth Employment Service Statistics for March 1985 indicates that the Professional and Related Occupation group (which includes library workers) accounts for 5.4% of the total number of unemployed persons registered in NSW. Also, as the Professional and Related Occupation group represents 5.1% of the persons registered for 3 months or longer in NSW, I would suggest your organisation urge all unemployed library workers to register with the Commonwealth Employment Service.

By registering with CES unemployed library workers would be eligible for CEP placement, as minimum eligibility for employment in CEP projects requires that persons be registered for full-time work with CES for the previous 3 months. However, priority is given to people who have been unemployed for 9 months or more.

Submissions for CEP projects have been requested from the Department of Technical and Further Education and it would therefore be appropriate if your members discussed ideas for new projects with their supervisors. The CEP Co-ordinator within the Department of Technical and Further Education is Mr Brian Murtagh (Phone 219 9359) who will co-ordinate all CEP applications prior to them being submitted to the CEP Secretariat.

Thank you for your letter and you may be assured that your concern to alleviate unemployment amongst library workers will be taken into account in the assessment of future CEP projects.

Yours sincerely,
R. J. Debus
Minister for Employment

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