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# HELP IN GETTING A JOB

Ray Chapman, Jim Clark, Margaret D'Arcy, Phil Eyre, John Ford, Jim Franki, Frank Hay, Steve Ho, and Jim Stewart—who all feature in the photographs on these pages—are faces well-known to many of you.

As Vocational Officers of the Commonwealth Employment Service, *their job is to help get you jobs.*

As indicated by the list of places at the end of this article each of them covers a large area, driving several hundred miles each week to visit the various centres of Aboriginal population in their district.

However they do work in very closely with the sixty or so offices and the many agencies of the Commonwealth Employment Service in N.S.W., offices whose purpose is to assist both Aborigines and non-Aborigines. An Aboriginal in Walgett, for instance, who wants help in finding employment may either go to the shire clerk's office at Walgett (who is the Commonwealth Employment Service agent there) or contact Phil Eyre at Brewarrina.

The reason for the appointment of the Vocational Officers is that many Aborigines live in places that do not have an Employment Service office or agency, and even those who do are sometimes too shy to visit these offices.

The other need they meet is that of dealing with the special difficulties Aborigines sometimes have in finding employment. The Vocational Officers are there to help handle these problems.



*Ossie Cruse, Bill Campbell, Mrs Campbell, Denis Cruse and John Ford (Bega) at Bermagui*



*Jim Franki of Kempsey (extreme right) with group of students visiting garage (Photo courtesy Macleay Argus)*

## HOW THEY WORK

They visit Aboriginal families in their homes—in the towns or on reserves—interviewing unemployed people who want jobs, and also those people who may already be employed but want better jobs. They also talk to the parents of boys and girls still at school, and to the young people themselves, both at school and at home.

They work closely with the members of the Aborigines Advisory Council, Aboriginal Advancement Associations, other Government Departments, and with field officers of the Foundation in Sydney and South Sydney Community Aid, Harry Hall and Phillip Hall in Walgett, Bill Reid and Wally Byers in Bourke, Ray Kelly in Armidale, and Steve Gordon in Brewarrina.

They visit employers about vacant jobs and try to ensure that people get jobs in their home area. In many country areas this is difficult because of the shortage of employment in the country at the moment.