

## Hopes that first University graduate will come from La Perouse School

Mrs. Muriel Stewart, J.P., the first aboriginal woman Justice of the Peace ever appointed in this State, hopes that La Perouse public school will one day soon produce the first Aboriginal university graduate in New South Wales.

“From what I have seen and heard of the current crop of Aboriginal children attending school here this could very well happen in the years just ahead,” Mrs. Stewart told *Dawn* the other day.

“There have in the past been some bright youngsters go through La Perouse school and on to high school—children who might have done well at the university—but who, through family circumstances, were forced to leave school at intermediate certificate level.

“But today, with parents better educated themselves as to the advantages of higher learning, the children, backed by the Welfare Board’s bursary system, have a much better chance.

**Mrs. M. Stewart**



**The promising young poets of La Perouse Public School who made almost a clean sweep of the NADOC poetry quest photographed with their headmaster, Mr. J. P. McGrath. Front row, left to right—Glenda Ardler (12), Yvonne Simms (10), Lorraine Simms (12) and Dulcie Cooley (11); second row, Ivan Simon (12), Mervyn Davison (11) and Noel Stewart (12)**

“The young material is here to work on. *Dawn* Magazine itself showed this in a recent issue when it printed the prize-winning work of La Perouse boys and girls in the poetry section of the National Aborigines’ Day Committee’s writing quest.

“This work was wonderful and we at La Perouse are very proud of the youngsters and hold out high hopes for them as scholars of the future.”

Mrs. Stewart, a La Perouse resident with nine children and 28 grandchildren, is extremely well qualified to talk of the prospects of the children she knows so well.

For Mrs. Stewart herself still goes to school three days a week. Not as a student but as a helper in the serving of Oslo lunches for the tots at La Perouse primary school on two days and at nearby Matraville High School on the third day. She also finds time to help in welfare work at La Perouse Aboriginal reserve.