

SPOTTO!!

SPOTTO in the Tuggeranong School Room

Tuggeranong School is a place about children.

In the classroom 40 children aged from 5 to 15 were taught their lessons.

SPOT the models of a boy and girl. Check out the way they are dressed.

SPOT the blackboard which has the lessons children learnt in 1934.

SPOT the long desk and long bench stool where 10 children sat together.

They always faced the front of the classroom.

SPOT the teacher's desk and chair, in front of the fireplace.

Only men teachers taught at this school.

The school was only open for 60 years. Mr Kennedy taught for nearly

20 years here and Mr McGee taught here for nearly 29 years!

SPOT the photographs of these two teachers and their pupils.

Mrs McGee is in the photograph with her husband and 6 of their 7 children.

One of the McGee's children became a professor and inventor.

He helped invent television, in England.

SPOT the photograph of Professor Jim McGee in a case at the back of the room.

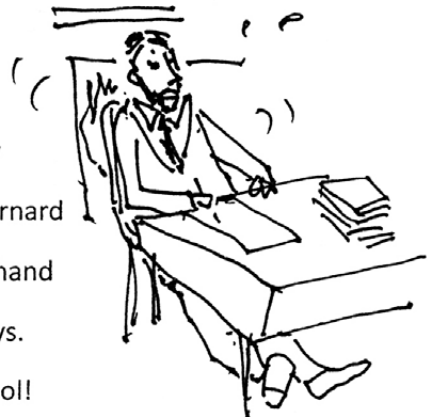
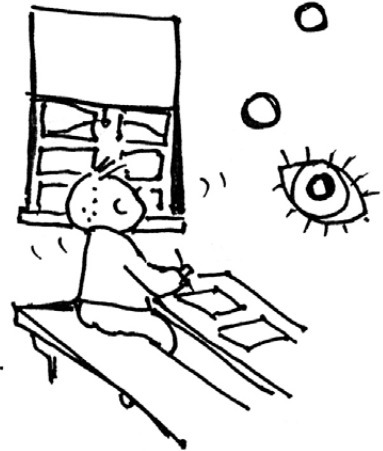
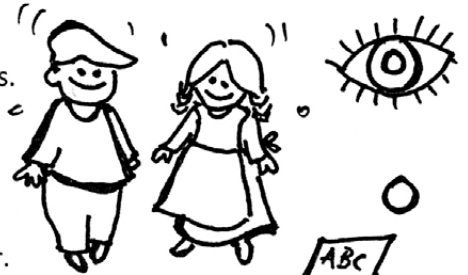
This place was a farm as well as a school and a house. It was a very lonely place with no houses nearby, until about twenty years ago.

SPOT the photos taken from an aeroplane that show how lonely it was.

SPOT the window with the blind up. The hills you see were part of a property named Tralee, owned by Mrs McGee's family. Her twin nephews, Leo and Bernard were sometimes naughty, often together, and their teacher hit them on the hand with the cane. One got into trouble for racing his horse against two other boys.

Another little boy aged 7, was hit for kissing girls on the way home from school!

SPOT the back wall of the classroom. On the other side is the house for the School teachers and their families.





SPOTTO in the House

The house at Tuggeranong School has 4 rooms, with a kitchen attached at the back, and a laundry and a toilet. In the old days there were only the 4 rooms!

Step from the veranda into the lounge/best room. Children could visit in this room, but they were not allowed to play here.

SPOT the photographs on the large cupboard. One shows a tennis party on the front veranda of this house. Kathleen McGee is in the photograph with the man she was going to marry. The second one shows their wedding photo.

Mr McGee, Kathleen's father, wrote poetry for the newspaper, and played the violin.

SPOT a copy of one of his poems on the little table.

He wrote his poems in this room – away from the school children, and his 7 children! Notice there are no children in this room!

SPOT the parent's bedroom. Many babies were born in this room.

SPOT the twins in the bottom drawer of the wardrobe. This made a good bed for tiny babies. **SPOT** the grumpy baby on the big bed. It could roll off so generally babies and toddlers were put in a cot. This also stopped them getting near the fire.

The toilet was a long, long way from the house, out in the backyard.

SPOT the potties under the beds used by Mum and Dad, and a little 'pottie' for baby.

'botties'! They are pushed under the bed so no one steps in them.

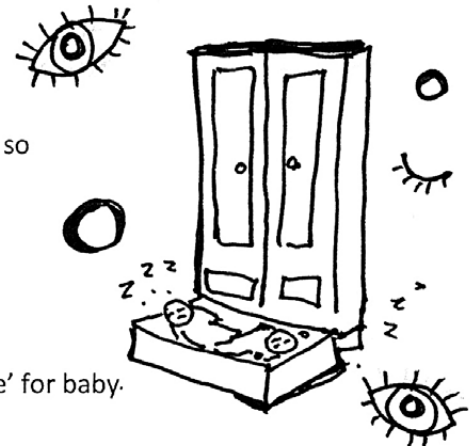
SPOT how many fireplaces there are in this house. Children often had to collect wood and chop it up. The father would sleep nearest to the fire, so the Mum could check on all the children. **SPOT** how many children there are in this room. Imagine the noise!

Step into the family room. This was originally the kitchen 130 years ago.

Mrs Kennedy and Mrs McGee had to cook the meals over the open fire!

SPOT the girl in the bath. All the McGee children had to bathe in front of this fire – and all used the same bath water!

SPOT all the different things that were done in this room. **SPOT** how many children there are in this room!





Step into the children's bedroom. **SPOT** how many children there are in the big bed. Some sleep at the top of the bed while others sleep at the bottom. **SPOT** the sort of toys that are in this room. The toys show what was popular in the early days. **SPOT** the toys you know.



Walk through to the new kitchen built in 1899! **SPOT** the wood stove. It was easier to cook on than an open fire, especially for so many children.



SPOT where Mrs McGee could cook bread on this stove. **SPOT** the bread pans.



This stove could heat water which was collected in buckets from the tank.

SPOT the big black kettle used for hot water. There were no taps or sinks in the early days of this house. There was no refrigerator. Meat was hung outside



in a meat safe, and was cooked quickly so it did not go rotten.



Often the family ate in the kitchen at a table near the fire. It was easier for Mrs McGee to feed the children here and to wash up as well.



SPOT all the things which were kept up high away from the children.



SPOT the washing boards for washing clothes in a tin wash tub.



SPOT the baby in the wash tub ready for his bath!

Later a laundry was added to the house and a bathroom. At last the house had concrete washing troughs and, taps!



Another room was added about 20 years ago which now has a lot of farm items in it. **SPOT** as many items you know. Horses for riding, cows for milking, sheep for wool and eating, and bees for honey.



SPOT the 'puffer' used to keep the bees quiet while the McGee's collected honey from their 60 beehives.



In the old days the stables, dairy and other farm sheds were built where the houses are behind the old disused toilet.



SPOTTO in the School Yard

SPOT the shearing shed. This old disused shearing shed is over 60 years old.

The front part of it was the old shelter shed for the school children before 1939 when the school closed. The property then became a farm and home for several

families, but mainly for Mr Morton and his family, a boy and girl, who lived here for over 20 years.

He built the shearing shed and the hen house.

SPOT the hen house. Both the hen house and the shearing shed are made of tin sheets which were originally on someone's ceiling in Sydney. Mr Morton liked recycling!

SPOT the garage. It is about 80 years old. Only some of the teachers here had cars. Mr Kennedy and Mr McGee rode horses and travelled around in a light carriage called a 'buggy'. It was pulled by a horse. It was hard to fit all the McGee children in a buggy.

SPOT the old toilet at the back of the property. It has not been used for over 50 years as it is too far away from the house, and it is too inconvenient for modern day use. Originally it was used only by the early families who lived in the house, not by the school children who had their own toilets which have gone, long ago. It was over a deep pit with a wooden seat over it!

Sometimes a possum sleeps in the wire netting under the roof – so the old toilet is still useful – at least for someone!

