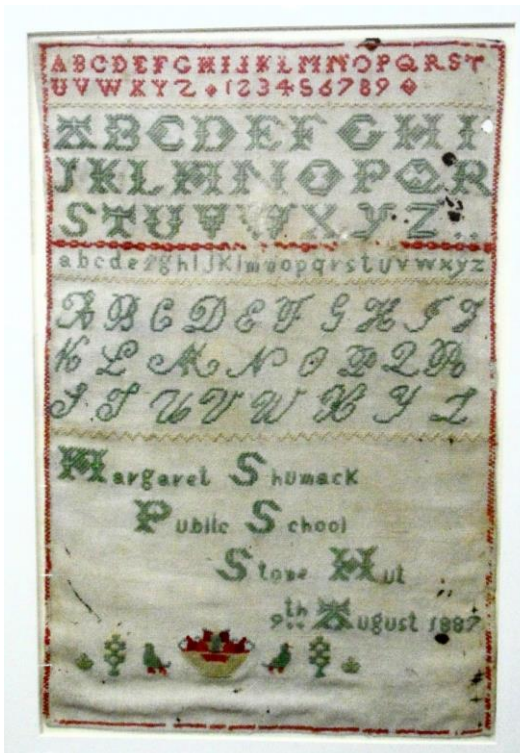


FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER

SAMPLING THE PAST

When Margaret Shumack began embroidering her needlework sampler in 1887, as an 11-year-old student at the Stone Hut School, little did she know what would become of it. More than 130 years later the sampler has been listed as a nominated object to the ACT Heritage Register. This is a preliminary, threshold step and in the near future it will undergo further assessment by the Council to determine its suitability. We will eagerly await their final decision. The Centre has applied for a heritage grant to have the sampler cleaned and conserved.

Margaret lived with her parents 'Big Pete' and Elizabeth (nee Williams) at Fern Hill (present day Lyneham) and later with her brother Edward at the remaining family estate, Kia-Ora. In the 1920s she and her sister ran a boarding house in Katoomba. She didn't marry and died in Braddon in 1945, aged 70.



Sampler stitched by Margaret Shumack in 1887

AN INTERN WITH LINKS TO EARLY LOCAL SETTLERS



Mairead Rabjohns-Goyne has started a three-month internship at the Centre and has linked up with Maren Innes to work on the cataloguing of the Southwell family Collection. Mairead is in her second year of a Culture & Heritage degree at the University of Canberra.

Her father's interest in researching his family history influenced her degree choice. She is a 6th generation local, descended from William Sullivan, who farmed at Acton and after whom Sullivan's Creek was named. Prior to the development of Lake Burley Griffin, European settlement in this area began in the 1830s when the Macpherson family built a homestead on what is now known as Springbank Island. In 1888 William and Anastasia Sullivan purchased the land, and lived in the Springbank homestead with their twelve children. They farmed sheep and wheat and milled timber harvested from Black Mountain for over twenty years. William was the property's final private owner. The government resumed their land in 1910 and William died in 1911. By 1913 the Sullivan family had left the area.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will go ahead as planned on **Thursday 13th August at 10 am**, however we have decided to postpone the much anticipated address by our guest speaker, Dr Roslyn Russell, until a later date when larger numbers of visitors can safely attend a meeting. Dr Russell was due to talk about the Significance Assessment of the Gillespie Collection which she completed for the Centre last year, utilising a grant from the National Library. In view of the current restrictions the meeting will be a short, functional affair.