



Judith Stephens President of the Australian Rugmakers Guild, organised the first Rugmaking Expo in Strathalbyn in 2008. It was during this exhibition of rugs the Australian Guild was formed.



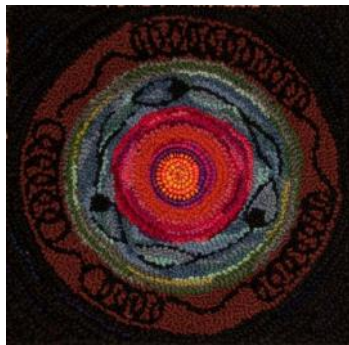
Jo Franco also a founding member of the Australian Guild was nominated as Secretary and Editor, in 2009 also taking on the position of Editor for TIGHR's Hooking Matters.

Below: Wall-hangings designed and hooked by Judith Stephens



In 2009 Judith, V. President of The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) was appointed Convenor of the 2012 International Rughooking Conference and with Jo as Event Manager they ran a very successful Conference in Strathalbyn, South Australia that October

Judith and Jo followed this event with another Strathalbyn Rugmaking Expo, workshops being given by visiting members of TIGHR. Two years on, the two friends and Guild Committee members; Judith, President and Jo Editor/Membership Chair, are organizing yet another Expo, with Guild members, experienced in their own right, sharing their knowledge of techniques learned from the visiting international experts



Judith, a fibre artist, enjoys researching different techniques of rug making.

Her work has been exhibited and sold in Australia and overseas and featured in magazines and book publications.

While Jo has been instrumental in publicizing the revival of the craft in Australia with articles in US & Australian magazines and setting up community rug groups while bringing together online rugmakers from across Australia.



Above: Wearable art designed and hooked by Jo & her community group. Below: *Handing it On* an installation designed and hooked by Jo Franco.



As members of The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) Judith & Jo were Panel participants at the 2009 TIGHR conference (USA). Judith conducted a workshop at the 2012 Conference in Australia and together they will give a workshop at the next triennial conference to be held 2015 in Victoria on Vancouver Island, BC, Canada.



Class Description : Toothbrush Rugmaking or Naalbinding



In this class you will learn to create a small basket with a tool made from a toothbrush.

Also, how to use this technique to make a rug.

Rugs made with this technique are especially good for bathroom use as there is no backing fabric to dry.

Materials for kit fee of \$20 include; tool, fabric and instruction brochure.