

## LEATHERCRAFT GUIDELINES

1. The Society encourages the design and creation of works, using motif, material, inspiration and social commentary drawn from the Australian experience and Australia's cultural diversity.
2. All articles presented for selection or exhibition and sale shall be original and creative in concept and design. The works shall demonstrate a high level of technical skill and present the highest possible standard of craftsmanship at all times.
3. The Society encourages artists to make contemporary work. The tone, texture or form may be inspired for example, by fashion, tradition, colour and pattern, culture, landscape or a fleeting memory.
4. The Society encourages artists to continuously assess their work and to research and initiate new concepts, forms, techniques and applications and to disseminate these by sharing information through discussion, writings and teaching.

### **Creativity**

The article should have aesthetic appeal and be original and creative in concept and design.

### **Materials**

The highest quality leathers are to be used at all times, whether vegetable or chrome tanned.  
The strength and weight of the leather should be suited to the size and purpose of the article.  
All handbags must have linings of appropriate weight and strength. They may be of either leather or fabric but must complement the article in concept and design.

### **Construction**

Construction is to be appropriate to the article and be made to last.  
If thonged, lacing must be strong and even, well joined and finished and cover edges.  
If saddle stitched, edges must be thoroughly prepared and completed.  
If machine stitched with raw edges, edges must be polished and finished.  
If reverse seamed, joins must be hammered or top stitched to flatten.  
Machine and hand-stitched seams must begin and end in an unobtrusive section of the construction.  
All cut threads to be neatly finished off.  
Machined seams should have threads run-off, not over-sewn and then cut.  
Handles and straps are to be of appropriate strength, width, and attachment, and related to the general design.  
Fastenings, zippers etc. to be of the best quality, durable and strong and inserted with reinforcement  
Hand dyed articles must have smooth and even, non-blotchy surfaces, (unless the surface decoration is textured or otherwise embellished).  
Permanent dyes must be used, together with an appropriate sealing agent.

### **Belts and Straps**

Carved, plaited or plain belts must have the edges bevelled and smoothly finished.  
Bucks must be finished to a smooth surface and buckles securely fastened.  
Braided belts must have lacing ends well run in.  
Plaiting must be firm and even.  
Fashion belts must be of original design and contain sufficient craft elements.

### **Wallets & Small Purses**

are to be made from best quality fine leather with no commercial inserts.  
The use of machine work in wallets is not encouraged.