



...healthy and sustainable rural, regional and remote communities.

Calling all creatives: show us what life in rural Australia means to you!

20 July 2020

The National Rural Health Alliance, the peak body for rural health in Australia, is pleased to announce that the [2020 Friends #loverural Photo and Poetry Competition](#) is now open!

Run in conjunction with Friends of the Alliance, a grassroots network of people and organisations interested in improving the health and wellbeing of people in rural, regional and remote Australia, the photo and poetry competition is a chance for amateur photographers and poets to send in words or images that showcase the beauty and passion of rural Australia and the communities that live there.

“This has been a tough year for many people in rural, regional and remote Australia with drought, bushfires, floods, and now COVID-19,” said National Rural Health Alliance CEO Dr Gabrielle O’Kane.

“But one thing it has shown is that rural communities are as vibrant and strong as ever, and that rural Australia remains a great place to live and work.

“What better way to show that than through photos and poetry?”

The theme for the competition is #loverural, and entries could include photos and poetry that showcase everyday life in rural Australia, personal experiences with drought, flood or bushfires, or how communities coped with isolation and social distancing during COVID-19.

“We hope that this year’s Friends Photo and Poetry Competition will be a chance for people across the country to show us what life in rural Australia means to you, either by picking up the camera or putting pen to paper,” said Dr O’Kane.

“It’s also a chance for us to highlight the links between the arts and health, both in terms of the positive impacts of the arts on physical and mental health, but also the way the arts can be a force for community development and help us to create healthier rural communities.”

Finalists from the 2019 competition are available to view [here](#) (photos) and [here](#) (poetry).

Further information is [here](#) and entries close 31 August 2020.

Membership of Friends of the Alliance for the 2020/21 year is [now open](#).

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The National Rural Health Alliance is Australia’s peak non-government organisation for rural and remote health.