

Monday 22 October 2012

WRAP UP OF GRANNY SMITH FESTIVAL 2012

This year's Granny Smith Festival has been described by organisers as "awesome" and the 80 – 90,000 people who joined in the celebration voted their approval with their feet and their smiles.

The day began with the Street Parade which, as always, provided a snapshot of the community. Headed by "Granny Smith" on her float and the Mayor in a grand vintage car they were followed by a host of colourful characters including eager young dancers, the Mounted Police, boy scouts and girl guides, community groups displaying their cultural heritage, local business owners, volunteer organisations and marching bands. Eastwood Public School took out the Award for the Best Parade Float.

Throughout the day, as the temperature soared, the water flowed from the multiple taps at the free water station, keeping people hydrated and cool. Young people were even cooler over at The Core youth zone.

Apple pies, gozlemes, fruit frappes, satay sticks, noodles, nuts, stirfries and sizzling sausages were consumed with gusto.

Plants, paintings, furniture, books, bags and jewellery were all snapped up by bargain hunters.

The Singing Star karaoke competition Under 15 was won by Petra Henry and the 15 and over was won by Hayden Tonazzi.

The dodgems and carnival rides bristled with excitement and squeals of joy could be heard well into the night.

As the afternoon gave way to evening, the buzz kept going with excited teens, patient mums and dads, and tiring toddlers waiting for their go on the dodgems and spinning teacups.

The much anticipated family concert got off to a great start with local artists Younger Hearts and Outlier keeping the crowd of around 15,000 entertained before the lead act the Australian Blues Brothers got everyone on their feet, shaking those tail feathers and moochin' like Minnie.

Then the cloudless evening sky lit up with the greens, reds, blues, gold and silver of an amazing display of fireworks.

The Police reported that crowds throughout the day and night had behaved impeccably and there were only a small number of people affected by heat who were treated by St John Ambulance staff.

All up, it was a memorable day and night. And we'll be back again next year. You can see more highlights on www.facebook.com/grannysmithfestival You can also provide feedback on the Festival and share your favourite Festival moments with the community.