

Monday 19 October 2015



GRANNY SMITH 30th FESTIVAL GOES OFF WITH A BANG

The 30th Anniversary Granny Smith Festival has been hailed a major success by festival goers, organisers and participants.

City of Ryde Mayor, Jerome Laxale, said there was a real buzz in the air. “The Granny Smith festival has stood the test of time and is now a wonderful event for the whole family. I am delighted that the festival has a real family focus – and a record crowd of 90,000 shows that our city loves it too!”

The annual event held on the third Saturday in October saw a record crowd in excess of 90,000, the biggest in the Festival’s history.

The unique mix of live music, market stalls, great food, carnival rides and community pride added up to a perfect day of fun under a brilliant blue sky.

Highlights included the 2,000 strong street parade, led by the NSW Mounted Police and the Batmobile, the Orange Farmers Market, the family chill-out zone and more than sixty live acts including dancers and a ukulele orchestra. As the sun went down, R&B band *Soul Empire* grooved the crowd and then fireworks exploded in a fitting tribute to a great community celebration.

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