

Monday 24 September 2018

## **GRANNY SMITH FESTIVAL PROMISES TO BE BIGGER THAN EVER**

### **CITY OF RYDE SET TO MARK 150 YEARS OF THE GRANNY SMITH APPLE**

More than 90,000 people will descend on Eastwood on Saturday 20 October to take part in one of Sydney's largest street festivals – the City of Ryde Granny Smith Festival.

This year's event takes on added significance as festival-goers celebrate 150 years of the Granny Smith Apple, which was first grown by Maria Ann 'Granny' Smith on her Eastwood property in 1868.

Fittingly for such an occasion, the City of Ryde has a range of wonderful free entertainment for people of all ages to enjoy throughout the day.

Highlights include:

- **Grand Street Parade:** With more than 2,000 people participating, this parade will celebrate Ryde's vibrant community transforming Eastwood's streets into a sea of colour and sounds featuring marching bands, community floats and dancers;
- **Granny's Cider Bar:** Located at West Parade, the new Granny's Cider Bar will provide festival-goers with the chance to take a break and sit back while sampling delicious beverages and listening to some acoustic tunes;
- **Finale concert:** Starting from 5.30pm the finale concert will provide a fitting finish to a great festival with ARIA Award-winning singer Samantha Jade performing along with popular cover band Soul Nights, capped off with a spectacular fireworks display;
- **Kids Hub:** Children between 0 and 12 years of age will have plenty to keep them entertained at the Kids Hub situated at Eastwood Public School as well as a number of popular entertainment acts across all of the stages throughout the day, including Hi-5 who will deliver two performances and a meet and greet on the Oval; and
- **The Core:** Operated by the Ryde Youth Council, The Core is aimed at 12 to 25 year olds and will be highlighted by the Apple Jam Block Party which includes open dance battles, silent disco and a talent quest.

In addition, there will be more than 200 stalls, a singing competition as well as performances throughout the day at four of the festival's dedicated stages.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, the Granny Smith Festival had become a great way for the local community to come together and celebrate its diversity while also honouring the life and legacy of Granny Smith.

“This year’s Granny Smith Festival promises to be bigger than ever with something to cater for everyone and the fact that we are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Granny Smith apple,” Clr Laxale said.

“We are so lucky to have an event such as the Granny Smith Festival here in the City of Ryde which allows us to come together and celebrate with a range of fun-filled activities. I hope to see you all in Eastwood on Saturday 20 October.”

As City of Ryde is committed to phasing out all single-use plastics at its events, there will be no plastic bags, straws, balloons or single-use plastic water bottles at this year’s Granny Smith Festival. Festival-goers are encouraged to bring their own water bottle and refill it throughout the day at any of the dedicated Sydney Water stations located across the Festival site.

More information is available at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Granny-Smith-Festival](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Granny-Smith-Festival).

City of Ryde would like to thank all of its sponsors who help make the Granny Smith Festival. They are:

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