

Thursday 14 May 2020

## **GRANNY SMITH CELEBRATIONS TO TAKE NEW FORM IN 2020**

The City of Ryde has made the extremely tough decision to cancel this year's Granny Smith Festival.

The annual event, which was due to be held on 17 October this year, will instead be replaced with a series of new events staged throughout October that will celebrate the life and legacy of Granny Smith.

The new series of smaller events will allow for a more controlled environment that will allow people to participate safely. Council will, however, be guided by federal and state health advice at the time and will therefore have contingencies in place to move some events online if required to do so.

The full details of the revised celebrations will be announced in due course.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the decision to cancel the Granny Smith Festival was the only course of action that could be taken.

"An event the size of Granny Smith Festival takes months to plan and organise, involving thousands of performers, vendors, volunteers and community members. Without guidance on when large-scale events will be able to resume safely in NSW, we have reached the point where we have had to make the decision to cancel," Cllr Laxale said.

"While we will not be able to stage the Granny Smith Festival this year, the revised events that the City of Ryde events team is preparing will allow us all to stay safe while acknowledging the life of Granny Smith, one of our City's most famous icons, in a fun and unique way.

"I would like to thank everyone for their understanding during what has been an extremely challenging period."

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