

Wednesday 9 September 2020

## CELEBRATE THE GRANNY SMITH FESTIVAL THIS OCTOBER

Everyone is invited to join in the fun and celebrate one of Sydney's most popular community events – the Granny Smith Festival.

This year's Granny Smith Festival will be celebrated a little differently this year, with the traditional one-day festival replaced with a large number of events that will take place throughout October.

Like every Granny Smith Festival, there will be something for everyone this year with most of the events taking place online.

The attractions at this year's festival include:

- **Drive-in Cinema:** Macquarie University will host a drive-in cinema over two nights across the October Long Weekend (3 – 4 October). Online bookings essential
- **Emma Wiggle Live Online:** Emma Wiggle will be doing a live online show on the Granny Smith Festival Facebook page on Saturday 17 October. Emma will also be running a competition to win a meet and greet via a video link prior to the show
- **Big Apple Talent Quest:** Solo and group acts can go in the running to win more than \$2,000 in prizemoney by submitting an online video
- **Orchestra in the Park:** The Ryde Hunters Hill Symphony Orchestra will stream a special live performance from the grounds of Brush Farm House on Saturday 24 October
- **Granny's Marketplace:** During the month of October we will be showcasing previous stallholders from the last three years online
- **Virtual Scavenger Hunt sponsored by Macquarie Community College:** There will be two separate week-long competitions throughout October with \$2,500 available in prizes to be won
- **Granny's Virtual Kitchen:** During the October school holidays kids will be able to take part in a live Zoom cooking class where they will learn new recipes that include cooking with the Granny Smith Apple. Bookings essential
- **Plaza Art in Four Parts:** Four weeks, four artists, four perspectives. From 8 October, a new artist will showcase Eastwood Plaza with a fresh perspective each week. They will also undertake a 'work in progress' allowing the community to watch as each new piece comes to life
- **Country Women's Association (CWA) cooking video:** Ever wanted to make the perfect apple crumble? Then look out for the online video in which the CWA's Margery East will show you how in simple, easy steps
- **Animation video on the history of Maria Ann Smith:** Aimed at local primary school children, this animation video will provide details on the life and legacy Maria Ann 'Granny' Smith in a fun and engaging way.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said this year's Granny Smith Festival will be a little different to previous years, the events planned will ensure it will still be as fun as ever.

"While many annual events have been cancelled this year, the City of Ryde felt it was vitally important to still stage a Granny Smith Festival that featured lots of fun entertainment while ensuring the safety of everyone in the community," Cllr Laxale said.

“With the events we have planned for this year’s festival, we will get to celebrate the life and legacy of Granny Smith, while also having lots of fun in the process.”

The City of Ryde would like to thank festival sponsor Macquarie University Hospital and Clinics.

For more information on this year’s Granny Smith Festival, including the complete program of events taking place, visit [ryde.rocks/gsf](http://ryde.rocks/gsf).

**Background:**

The Granny Smith Festival celebrates the life of Maria Ann ‘Granny’ Smith. She and her husband Thomas had a fruit orchard in Eastwood.

It was here in 1868 that Granny Smith accidentally grew the first Granny Smith apples when some crab apples she discarded along a creek bed sprouted into a new variety of apple.

More than 150 years later, the Granny Smith apple is now one of the most popular apple varieties and is grown in orchards across the world.

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions, this year’s traditional one-day festival has been replaced with a month-long series of events primarily held online to ensure everyone’s health and safety.

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