

Monday 22 October 2018

HUGE CROWD TURNS OUT FOR EASTWOOD'S GRANNY SMITH FESTIVAL

Eastwood was transformed into a sea of colour and sound on Saturday as close to 90,000 people descended on the suburb for the annual Granny Smith Festival.

The Granny Smith Festival is one of Sydney's biggest street festivals which celebrates the life and legacy of Maria Ann 'Granny' Smith, who grew the first Granny Smith apple on her Eastwood property in 1868. This year's festival was extra special as it celebrated 150 years of the Granny Smith apple.

A highlight from this year's festival was the Grand Street Parade which saw marching bands, community floats and dancers representing groups from across the City of Ryde and surrounding areas entertain the huge crowds as they made their way through the streets of Eastwood.

Crowds also flocked to the five dedicated festival stages to watch a vast array of performers and musical acts, while the introduction of Granny's Cider Bar proved popular with those keen to take a break from the humid weather conditions.

Younger festival-goers also had plenty to keep them entertained throughout the day with the Kids Hub sustainable kids play area and the Apple Jam Block Party, which was run by the Ryde Youth Council. Two performances from Hi-5 also proved extremely popular.

The only dampener on the festival was the cancellation of the Finale Concert due to heavy rain and lightning late in the afternoon, meaning a performance from Samantha Jade and the fireworks display could not go ahead.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, thanked everyone who attended this year's Granny Smith Festival.

"It was great to see so many people attend what was a glorious day out in Eastwood. Community events like the Granny Smith Festival recognise our local history and multicultural community while also underlining what a great city we live in," Clr Laxale said.

"I would like to say a special thanks to all the performers who entertained the crowds throughout the day, as well as the event sponsors who make the event possible. Thanks must also go to the local volunteers and the City of Ryde events staff who worked extremely hard to make sure this year's Granny Smith Festival such a success.

"I look forward to seeing everyone at next year's Granny Smith Festival."