

Monday 20 October 2014

GRANNY SMITH FESTIVAL 2014 - WRAP

This year's Granny Smith Festival at Eastwood has been described by organisers and the estimated 90,000 festival-goers as "awesome".



Kicking off with the Street Parade which always gets a big cheer from the crowd the Mounted Police led the way followed by "Granny Smith" on her apple float and the Mayor in a grand vintage car. Behind came a host of colourful characters including eager young dancers, boy scouts and girl guides, community groups displaying their cultural heritage, local business owners, volunteer organisations and marching bands. Eastwood Marist College was awarded Best Parade Float.

Throughout the day, apple pies, gozlemes, fruit frappes, satay sticks, noodles, nuts, cakes and sizzling sausages were consumed with gusto. H2O flowed at the free water station, keeping everyone hydrated and cool. Young people were even cooler over at The Core youth zone. Plants, paintings, furniture, books, bags and jewellery were all snapped up by bargain hunters.

The Community Notice Board filled up with over 500 messages like: I love apples; best festival; may the sun always shine on our festival; I can tag along for the Ryde; it's my 'hood.

The Big Apple singing competition was a hit. Congratulations to the winners - Under 14 years Jordyn Richards & Alexia Caceres (Duet); 15 years and over Petra Henry.

The animal farm is always a big favourite with the littlies. The dodgems and carnival rides got a work out and squeals of joy echoed around the Oval.

The family concert got off to a great start with local artists Outlier and Soundproofed keeping the crowd entertained before the Bon Jovi Tribute Band got everyone on their feet.

In a fitting end to a spectacular day, the evening sky lit up with the reds, blues, green and gold of an amazing display of fireworks.

The Police reported that crowds throughout the day and night had behaved impeccably.

We'll be back next year on Saturday 17 October to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Granny Smith Festival. See you there.

Go to www.facebook.com/grannysmithfestival for Festival highlights. You can also provide feedback on the Festival and share your favourite Festival moments with the community.