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SCHOOLS RECEIVE GRANNY SMITH TREES TO MARK 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

As preparations ramp up for this year's Granny Smith Festival in Eastwood, the City of Ryde has donated 10 Granny Smith trees to local schools as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Granny Smith apple.

With more than 90,000 people expected to attend the City of Ryde Granny Smith Festival, the event has become one of Sydney's largest street festivals.

This year's Granny Smith Festival on Saturday 20 October 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.

To mark the occasion, Granny Smith herself visited local schools this week to deliver the Granny Smith trees.

The local schools that each received two trees were:

- Denistone East Public School
- Ryde Public School
- Ryde Secondary School
- Banksia Cottage at Mac University
- Gladesville Public School

In addition, Granny Smith and City of Ryde events staff also visited Denistone East Public School, Eastwood Public School and Ermington Public School this week as part of the annual Granny Smith Schools Program. The program allows young students to take part in fun games such as apple bobbing as well as learn about the history of Granny Smith and her famous creation.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Granny Smith Festival had become synonymous with Eastwood and the City of Ryde.

"These school visits serve an important role to involve kids in the celebrations of the festival and teach them about an important piece of community history," Cllr Laxale said.

"I really hope everyone in the community can get to Eastwood on 20 October and celebrate this important milestone of 150 years of the Granny Smith apple and also enjoy the entertainment that will be featured throughout the day as part of the festival."

More information on the Granny Smith Festival is available at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Granny-Smith-Festival.

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