

The Courier

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Ballan Scout hall open day this Sunday

THE struggle for a Scout hall in Ballan is older than most of the Scouts themselves - but this Sunday the new doors are being officially flung open.

From 11am the Inglis Street hall will be showcased at a community open day, barbecue and an annual celebration of what 1st Ballan has achieved.

Scouts have spent the last few months writing and illustrating invitations to dignitaries including the Premier, Prime Minister - and rumour has it, the King.

It turns out they all had a bit on.

But Victorian Youth Minister Natalie Suleyman, Eureka State Labor MP Michaela Settle and Hawke Federal Labor MP Sam Rae will do the honours from 1pm at the \$1.1 million hall.

Until last year it was the site of Guide House - a former railways home moved to a main street vacant block

around 1970.

A time capsule was buried on the site, but has never been found. Now the group has made another - to be sealed by concrete.

"It'll be dug up hopefully on 4 June 2023," Ballan Venturer Jessica Jones said.

"We'll make it obvious and put a sign over the top - we just need a sponsor for the plaque. We've been collecting stuff from the community including drawings by the Jo-eyes, badges, menus, business cards and newspapers."

Meanwhile, the 16-year-old said she loved the huge new hall.

By the time the wrecking ball arrived at Guide House in 2022, a tree branch was growing through the roof cavity.

"Watching the hall come to life in the last 12 to 18 months has been really great," committee member Fiona Robertson said.

- GABRIELLE HODSON



What a difference 15 months makes. The ribbon will be cut on the \$1 million Ballan Scout hall with a community open day this Sunday. Pictures by Gabrielle Hodson.