

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP
Minister for Veterans
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Youth



Saturday, 15 June 2024

NEW HALL DELIVERED FOR SCOUTS IN EPPING NORTH

The Allan Labor Government has delivered to Epping North Scouts a brand new, purpose-built hall they can use to gain life skills, make new friendships and connect with their local community.

Member for Thomastown Bronwyn Halfpenny, representing Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman, today officially opened the new Epping North Scout Hall, which has been constructed with a \$600,000 contribution from the Labor Government.

The new hall will be home to the Epping North Scouts, with the space providing plenty of room for the group to thrive and keep growing their numbers.

The *Victorian Budget 2023/24* contributed close to \$1 million towards the redevelopment and upgrade of a further six scout halls in South Frankston, Bannockburn, Deer Park, Bundoora, Sandown and Eltham.

Scouts Victoria is one of the state's largest youth organisations and has a membership base of more than 20,000 young people and 5,000 adult volunteers. The number of young people participating in scouting activities has grown by 30 per cent in the last 10 years.

Accessing scouting activities supports young people's positive development and growth by creating opportunities for them to work with others, tackle challenges and lead in their communities.

The project is part of the Labor Government's \$5.5 million funding commitment, matched by Scouts Victoria, to build, upgrade or refurbish scout halls across the state.

Quote attributable to Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman

"We're proud to support the scouting movement with the construction and upgrades of scout halls across the state so young people can participate in activities that enrich their knowledge."

"Scouting is an important part of the fabric of Victoria, helping young people develop leadership skills and providing a genuine sense of community spirit."

Quotes attributable to Member for Thomastown Bronwyn Halfpenny

"Built on the grounds of Edgars Creek Secondary School, the Epping North Scout Hall will not only be a brand new home for local Scouts, but a modern facility for our community to connect and enjoy."

"A huge thank you to Scouts Victoria and Epping North Scouts Group for your dedication to delivering a permanent place for our young people to learn new skills, participate and grow."

Quote attributable to Chief Commissioner of Scouts Victoria, Rod Byrnes

"We are immensely grateful for the Victorian Government's support to build this wonderful new scout hall that will provide opportunities for a generation young people in Epping North and the surrounding area to connect and thrive."

Media contact: Georgina King 0419 001 409 | georgina.king@minstaff.vic.gov.au