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OFFICEWORKS EXTENDS COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL COMMUNITIES AND OPENS NEW WARRNAMBOOL STORE IN VICTORIA

Officeworks, Australia's leading retailer of stationery, technology, office products and education supplies, is coming to town to help make bigger things happen for communities along the Great Ocean Road, opening the doors to its new Warrnambool store today.

Recognising demand within the growing southwest region of Victoria, the new Warrnambool store is the retailer's first in the area, its 12th in regional Victoria and its 51st store across the state, demonstrating the retailer's ongoing commitment to supporting communities across Victoria and from its 167 stores and online reach, Australia wide.

With the previous closest store more than two hours away in Ballarat or Waurn Ponds, the new 1,675 sqm store in Warrnambool features refreshed branding and will provide the local community and surrounds with trusted value on its 40,000+ product range and services that customers know and love.

The new store includes Officeworks' wide range of stationery, technology, furniture and more at everyday low prices. It also offers Print & Create services and new self-service kiosks, wheelchair, and pram access.

With Click and Collect and a range of delivery options available, the Warrnambool store promises an easy and engaging shopping experience, no matter if customers choose to shop in-store, online, or via Click and Collect. The store features a receiving area approximately 60 per cent larger than other Officeworks stores of a similar size, supporting strong stock levels and ensuring product availability during key retail periods such as Black Friday and Back to School.

The Warrnambool store features several sustainability initiatives, including using 100% LED lights which feature low wattage and reduce energy consumption, along with their Bring it Back Recycling program where customers can recycle their unwanted or broken tech items, batteries, printer cartridges, pens and more.

Store Business Manager, Mark Ellis, said: "It's been amazing to see this store come to life from a shell to our custom-fit store, full the products we know our customers love. The team is so excited to open our doors and welcome the community to their brand-new Officeworks store. We feel very proud to be a part of the Warrnambool community and to help them make bigger things happen through our wide range of technology, arts and crafts, stationery, furniture, office supplies and education resources."

Investing in local employment and job creation, 30 new team members have been recruited and trained from the local community. During the recruitment process, Officeworks worked closely with long-term partner, The Clontarf Foundation, to support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in securing meaningful employment opportunities.

"During the recruitment process we have been working closely with The Clontarf Foundation to support young men in securing meaningful employment and we're so proud to have two Indigenous team members joining us in the store to ensure our team reflects the communities we serve, Mark said."

Officeworks Managing Director, Sarah Hunter, said: "Our team is looking forward to connecting and building relationships within Warrnambool and its surrounding communities, inspiring them to work, learn, create, and connect. We're excited to be opening this new store in regional Victoria, providing the community with access to the items they need, at low prices, and making shopping at Officeworks more accessible to more people."

As part of supporting its local community, Officeworks Warrnambool will donate to local Warrnambool College Way and WDEA Training Works who were chosen by the store team to each receive a \$1,000 cash donation and \$1,000 in Officeworks gift cards to help support them with quality educational resources and supplies.

The store and local community will also be able to support Officeworks' various community appeals throughout the year including its Literacy is Freedom Appeal with proceeds going to the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation and its Back-to-School Appeal supporting The Smith Family and more than 15,000 students each year.

To celebrate the store opening, Officeworks invites the community to explore their brand-new store for the first time on Wednesday 9 August from 7am to 7pm. Additionally, Officeworks will host a Community Family Fun Day on Saturday 19 August from 10:00am to 1:00pm and invites Warrnambool locals and the surrounding communities to visit the store and enjoy free activities including arts and crafts, complimentary coffee, face painting along with free giveaways.

The new store is conveniently located at 65 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool VIC 3280, and is open from 7am-7pm Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm on Saturdays and 9am-6pm on Sundays.

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For media enquiries, interviews, photography, or store visits, please contact:

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About Officeworks

Established in 1994 in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 167 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow and Australians to work, learn, create and connect.

Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site and remote tech support through Geeks2U – delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop.

Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the more than 9,000 team members it employs. It's also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.