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## OFFICEWORKS BALLARAT REOPENS BIGGER AND BETTER IN NEW LOCATION

After serving the Ballarat community for 23 years, Australia's leading retailer of stationery, art, education technology and furniture, Officeworks, will relocate its Ballarat store to meet the community's growing demand and reopen on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

The new 2,936 sqm Ballarat store located at 118 – 122 Creswick Road is approximately two and half times the size of the previous store and will stock an increased 23,000+ product range, offer 100 car parking spots to double customer accessibility and expand from four to six Print & Create kiosks all while offering the same familiar, organised layout with user-friendly service zones that Officeworks customers know and love.

The store will be the second Officeworks in the country to feature an intel gaming cube and will also offer the new Konica Minolta c4080 that will provide same day printing on many more products than the store could facilitate previously.

As part of ongoing commitments to sustainability, the new store features premium sustainability integrations including 100 kW of solar PV, LED lighting and a building energy management system. Customers can also shop for plant based, reusable and recycled products from the People and Planet range, and recycle their unwanted products such as printers, laptops and pens and markers in store at the Bring it Back station.

The store has created 22 new jobs in the local community and, to support local students and equitable access to educational resources, the store team has chosen to donate \$2,000 in cash and Officeworks gift cards to McCallum Disability Services and Yuille Park Community College – Young Parents.

**Officeworks Ballarat Store Business Manager, Rick Jones said:** “We are so excited to expand our store in this new location and better serve our community. Being the only Officeworks in Ballarat and within an 80km radius, we have quite a large customer base, some of whom travel long distances to come here and shop with us. Because of this, we found we had outgrown our old store so expanding means we will be able to provide an even better customer experience to our community.

“To support the expansion and in addition to our current team, we hired 22 new team members, all from the local community, bringing our total to 80 team members. Our old store closes on April 16<sup>th</sup> and our new store opens on April 17<sup>th</sup> so we had team members working in both stores during the 6 weeks leading up to opening.

“As a Ballarat local who has lived here for almost 50 years, I know the locals and surrounds are going to love the new opportunities this larger and more advanced Officeworks will bring to our community, and I can't wait to open the doors to this brand-new store.”

Ballarat residents and surrounding communities are invited to attend a Community Fun Day on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm to enjoy free activities at Officeworks Ballarat such as an arts and crafts workshop, face painting, exclusive giveaways, complimentary coffee and more.

The new store is conveniently located at 118 – 122 Creswick Road, next to the old Officeworks site and will open from 7am - 7pm Monday to Friday, 8am - 6pm on Saturdays and 9am - 6pm on Sundays.

– ENDS –

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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 171 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.