



PELICAN NEWS

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Ice Cream wins a Grocer New Product Award



Blue Skies ice cream has received yet another prestigious award, this time at the Grocer New Product Awards.

Blue Skies Dairy-Free Mango and Passion Fruit Ice Cream won first place in the Dairy-Free category, beating off competition from Ben and Jerry's Non-Dairy Chocolate Fudge Brownie and Alpro Caffè Coffee and Soya Caramel Drink.

Judges commented that "shoppers loved everything about it calling it 'gorgeous' and 'delicious'".



...and a Quality Food Award!

In addition to receiving a Grocer New Product Award, Blue Skies ice cream also received a Quality Award for its mango and Passion Fruit Ice Cream which was judged the winner. Coconut Ice Cream was also Highly Commended.

Blue Skies joins Ghana Club 100



Blue Skies Ghana has made it in to the Ghana Club 100 for the first time. The Ghana Club 100 recognises Ghana's best top 100 businesses. Blue Skies enters at number 78.

Tony Blair drops in to Blue Skies



Former UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair dropped in to Blue Skies Ghana in November. During his visit Mr. Blair learnt how Blue Skies is enabling change by providing opportunities for employment and industrial development through its commitment to adding value at source. He was introduced to our Ghanaian team by Anthony Pile and given a tour of the site and our new juice bar.



Getting ready for the new mango season



Pictured: South African refrigeration engineers working heroically to get the new mango stores ready for the forthcoming Ghana mango season, a whole new meaning to “keeping cool under pressure”. Thanks to Guy Murfitt for the photo.

2018 Conference looks forward to a busy 2019

General Managers and Executives met in Pitsford this month to discuss and agree plans for 2019. With additional business expected early next year and some exciting new products in the pipeline, plans were presented to enable Blue Skies to increase its capacity and improve efficiencies as the business continues to experience growth. There were however also warnings around the impact of continued uncertainty about the UK's plans to leave the European Union, and the possibility of a 'no deal' brexit. With so many opportunities and challenges, 2019 is set to be another very busy year for Blue Skies.

Volleyball proves popular in Brazil



Blue Skies Brazil have recently introduced volleyball games during lunch breaks and it has proved a success within our teams. High Care have even professionalized their representation and created their own team t-shirts.

Discover our Egyptian juices



Pictured above: Hasnaa Ebadi from Blue Skies Egypt with a tray full of freshly squeezed juices. You can keep up to date with our Egyptian juice by following our Blue Skies Egypt facebook page at: www.facebook.com/blueskies.egypt



Blue Print Update

2018 Blue Print Award Winners revealed

Our inaugural Blue Print Awards were announced recently at our Annual Blue Skies Conference. Twelve finalists were considered in four categories, and all the winners are detailed below.

Vote for your overall winner at www.blueskies.com/blueprintawards

Care for People Award

Awarded to: Blue Skies Brazil
For: Occupational Gymnastics

Blue Skies Brazil recently introduced Occupational Gymnastics for their production teams helping to reduce stress and injuries and boost morale.



Respect for the Environment Award

Awarded to: Blue Skies Netherlands
For: Plastics Reduction

Our Dutch team took the initiative to remove all plastic sporks from their products, thereby saving over twenty four tons of plastics each year!



Driving Efficiencies Award

Awarded to: Blue Skies Egypt
For: Heat Recovery System

Egypt installed a heat recovery system to capture heat from refrigeration to use in fruit washing, laundry and showers, helping to save 377,000 Kwh per year.



Big Idea Award

Awarded to: Blue Skies Ghana NPD
For: Pastries from coconut flour

Our NPD team in Ghana came up with the idea of using waste coconut chaff from ice-cream production to mill into flour to make pastries!



Do you have an idea that can help us improve?

Send us your Big Ideas!

It could be an idea for a new product, ways to become more environmentally friendly, ways to enhance how we work together or ways to become more efficient. Send us your ideas by completing the online form at:

<http://www.blueskies.com/ideas/>

SA slashes use of polystyrene with thermal blankets



Pictured: Blue Skies SA GM Andre Veldsman showing a container lined with new light-weight woven thermal blankets instead of polystyrene. This reusable material has helped to improve temperatures and reduce our use of polystyrene by 75%. Andre is hoping to eventually eliminate all polystyrene use so that all our packing material can be recycled or reused.

Ghana ensures it gives every tree a chance to grow



In Blue Skies, we respect each other, the environment and communities within which we operate. This Papaya plant seen on a wooden pallet on an old unused trailer in Ghana has not been left out, given a chance to grow.

By Charles Adu, Blue Skies Ghana.

South Africa launches 'Hope for Women'



Hope for women is a spiritual born concept, conceptualized by Sombu Nkosi and Mampho Mokoena of Blue Skies South Africa. Our vision is to give hope and empower women of all ages, through motivational talks held annually in the form of seminars. We held our first annual women empowerment seminar on the 24th of November at Welgelegen Manor Hotel in Balfour, we hosted 50 ladies from different towns in South Africa.

We send our sincere gratitude to the following organizations and individuals who supported our vision including Blue Skies South Africa, the Welgelegen Manor Hotel, Nkuyahae Holdings (Décor), Stephan Morris (Blue Skies UK), Morena Nkosi (Blue skies SA driver for music system), Tshepiso (photographer), Pearl Nkosi (MC), Dianetsi Motloung (Blue Skies), Zinhle Mbambo (Vocalist).

We especially thank our guest speakers which included Pastor Pinky Radebe (women's ministry), Mrs Tsolele (Women's health), Mrs Gcoboka (Women's entrepreneurs), Miss Lerato Ntwampe (women's career), Old Mutual (women's finance)

And last but not least, we must thank all the ladies who attended the event. *Report by Mampho Mokoena, Blue Skies South Africa.*

Pitsford support Cynthia Spencer charity collection



ACTION GROUPS

Blue Skies Pitsford are holding a collection in support of Cynthia

Spencer, a local hospice which is based in Northamptonshire. A collection box has been set up to take items including clothing, homeware, toys, games and DVD's. All donations will go to the Cynthia Spencer shop which will be sold to raise money for the hospice.

Blue Skies Brazil goes Pink for Breast Cancer



Blue Skies Brazil supported the national campaign "Pink October" against breast cancer. Francesca Valenti from the NGO "Laços de Amizade" provided a lecture to our staff during lunch time on how to prevent breast cancer. Our staff Maria do Rosário has addressed her own experience after having the disease and being cured. Pink ties and printed material were distributed to raise awareness. *By Flavia Mometti, GM, Blue Skes Brazil.*

Book Drive helps Primary school in South Africa



Thanks to Hella Lipper and Waitrose who have managed to raise funds to purchase textbooks for a Primary School near to our factory in South Africa. Our HR Manager in SA, Waydu Nhlapo, is pictured delivering some of the books to the school. Hella has been taking part in a number of activities to raise funds, including the Polar Bear Challenge which involves swimming outside in cold water! To date over 80 books have been donated. More will follow over the coming months.

Blue Skies Ghana Staff Association welcomes new Executive team



Pictured above: outgoing and incoming executives from our internal union, the Blue Skies Staff Association (BSSA) are shown with a representation from management after their inauguration in Ghana.

Blue Skies Babies



Baby of the month is Miguel, pictured above, who was born on the 11th October at 7:29 am with 3,945 kg. Miguel is Gisélem's son, a member of our Operations team in Brazil who issues invoices and does all paperwork related to the airport. We wish all the best to Miguel, Gisélem and their family.

Parlaad's Daughter takes over Pitsford



Pictured: UK Ops Team Leader Parlaad Nandhra's daughter came in the office one day recently and felt the need to dress up in fruit! She wasn't too happy however when she tried to bite in to the fruit, which turned out to be made of plastic.

People of Blue Skies



Pictured above from the left to right are Maria Beatriz, Deise Nicolau and Antônia dos Santos. All three are casuals and work in the last shift at Blue Skies Brazil. Maria Beatriz has had her first job opportunity at Blue Skies. Maria and Deise generally supports juice production. All three have shown excellent commitment and a great attitude to their work. We are glad they are part of our team at Blue Skies Brazil.

Photo by Anthony Pile. Report by Samanta Eleutério, HR Assistant



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