



Pelican News



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Blue Skies Newsletter

10 years of Blue Skies in South Africa

Blue Skies South Africa celebrated its ten year anniversary on February 13th. Ten years ago the factory produced fifty cases of melon and grape – its first ever production. Ten years on and South Africa goes from strength for strength having diversified in to new product lines, and captured the local market with world leading freshly squeezed juices and still lemonades. Congratulations Blue Skies South Africa!



Pictured above: An early aerial photo of the factory in South Africa

Blue Skies to sponsor biz award

Blue Skies
Holdings Ltd

proud sponsors at

Private
Business
Awards
2014

We are pleased to announce that Blue Skies will be sponsoring the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the UK's 2014 Private Business Awards. Blue Skies won this award in 2013, so we are pleased to remain associated with the award in 2014.

Got an idea?

We're looking for the next big thing for fruit, so if you've got an exciting fruit idea, you can let us know by sending an email to:

new.ideas@blueskies.com



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Egypt host a culture competition for staff



Blue Skies Egypt staff had a cultural competition organized by Osama, production manager. Winners received beautiful prizes but also all participants were complimented with a Blue Skies tagged mug. We took the opportunity of Anthony and George visit to have a small

celebration for handing out the prizes. They also praised the team for the huge effort made during the two extra-ordinary promotions, we were having along February. BSE Management Team believes it was a nice event and will have more similar events to encourage social interactions and to emphasize the family spirit between our staff.

مسابقة ثقافية ممتعة في بلوسكايز إيجيبت

شارك موظفوا بلوسكايز إيجيبت في مسابقة ثقافية نظمها م. أسامة مدير الإنتاج. استلم الفائزون جوائز رائعة كما تم تقديم هدايا رمزية لجميع المشاركين. قام بتسليم الجوائز والهدايا أنطوني وجورج خلال زيارتهما لمصر وقد امتدحا الجهد العظيم للعاملين خلال الحملتين التسويقيتين اللتين تمنا خلال فبراير. تعتقد إدارة بلوسكايز إيجيبت أن المسابقة نشاط جيد وسيتم تكرارها مع عمل أنشطة أخرى لدعم التفاعل الإجتماعي وتأكيد روح الأسرة لدى العاملين.

Report by Mohamed Abdul-Razik, Blue Skies Egypt

Waste heat dryer saves 165,000 KWh a year in Egypt

Khaled our Engineering Manager at Blue Skies Egypt has designed and implemented a new clothes drying system using waste heat recovered from the factory refrigeration system. The result means 30 kg of clothes can be dried in 20 minutes at 64°C. The system was built using a used industrial clothes dryer and used air condensers, therefore truly living by the environmental slogan of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The system will reduce Blue Skies Egypt's energy consumption by 165,000 Kwh per which will save £6,000 per year. The energy saved is equivalent to 82 ton of CO2 emissions. The second stage of this project is to use Solar Energy to power the air fan. No storage batteries will be needed as the system will switch back to electricity for short periods of time during cloudy days or evening runs.



Above: the new clothes drying system at the Blue Skies factory in Egypt

Study shows social impact of Blue Skies



Dr Linda Kleemann from the The Kiel Institute for the World Economy and Dr Stefan Ouma from Frankfurt University recently came to Pitsford to present the findings of a social impact study which they carried out for Waitrose on Blue Skies Ghana. The report shows how Blue Skies has a significant impact on local communities through job creation, agricultural development and its Foundation Projects. We hope to be able to publish some of the findings in future editions of Pelican News. Linda and Stefan are pictured squeezed in to the meeting room with thirteen people from the UK office – a record attendance for our little meeting room!

Albert Heijn opens stores in Germany



Albert Heijn has opened six 'To Go' stores in Germany. Account Manager Paul van Breukelen is pictured above at a recent store opening with two members of the To Go promotional team.

UK office become chefs for the day



Staff in the UK recently forgot which industry they were in after turning up for work at a fancy kitchen rather than the usual office in Pitsford. Whereas people would normally have laboured away at a series of prepared fruit related management tasks, they instead found themselves filleting fish, dismantling chickens, cooking risottos and baking soufflés. The day was in fact not a change of business direction for Blue Skies, but rather a very well organised team-building event hosted by 'Seasoned Cookery School', which was one of the prizes won by our Blue Skies master bakers (Jenny, Cath, Carrie and Ally) after being crowned 2014 British Business Bake-off champions!

The whole day proved to be hugely enjoyable for everyone who took part and allowed the team to get to know each other just that little bit better. Head Chef Jeff Thomas with assistants Claire, Tania and Jo helped the Blue Skies budding Chefs prepare a three course meal of pan fried Mackerel fillet with Moroccan Spice and citrus dressing, or seared haloumi cheese with chick peas, roast aubergine & sweet chilli Sauce, followed by Ballotine of chicken leg with a spinach, pinenut and tarragon farce served on a bed of fennel & lemon risotto, and then Chocolate ganache towers served with fresh raspberries and Raspberry Soufflés for dessert. You can find out more about cookery courses from Seasoned at <https://www.seasonedcourses.com>



Welcome to David O'Keeffe



A very warm welcome to David O'Keeffe who has recently joined the Blue Skies Finance team in Pitsford. David will work with Iain Highlands and the rest of the finance team in Pitsford enabling them to better serve the needs of the business.

Snack Fruit goes online



Blue Skies Snack Fruit is now available to buy online in the Netherlands. You can buy it from Albert Heijn at <http://www.ah.nl>

New sign at UK office



Pictured above: the new sign at the Pitsford office will mean that visitors will no longer miss us!

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Foundation Focus

The Blue Skies Foundation Newsletter. February 2014



Foundation projects begin

All Foundation projects in Ghana are now underway after a successful tender process was held to select the contractors. The projects include teachers accommodation for a pineapple farming community, a classroom block for a school in the mango growing area, boreholes for coconut and papaya growing villages, three public toilets for communities in mango and pineapple growing areas and a water collection and storage system for a school. All projects are expected to be completed by August this year.



Above: work starts at Yaw Duodu to build a three bedroom teachers block



Above: (left) Foundations being dug for a 12 seater toilet at Oboadaka and (right) polytanks are donated by the community of Akraman to collect water pumped by boreholes which will be drilled by the Foundation

Blue Skies in search of school farm of the year

Blue Skies is piloting a competition to find the School Farm of the Year in Ghana. The contest is being tested with a selection of schools as a way of encouraging the next generation to consider farming as a viable career option. School farms were once common place in Ghana however sending a child to visit a farm is now seen as a punishment thereby creating a negative perception of agriculture among the young. Blue Skies hopes the competition will help to reverse this mind set and inspire young people to see the potential in farming for the future.

Find out more

Find out more about the Foundation by visiting our website. Find us at : www.caretrace.com/blueskiesfoundation