



# PELICAN NEWS

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## What's Your Big Idea?



**Blue Skies is bringing back its Big Idea initiative as part of our ongoing drive to remain as leaders in the field of innovation.**

The Big Idea is designed to capture ideas from anywhere within the business or outside of it, that can help us improve how we work, develop new products, reach new markets or procure fruit.

It works by allowing people to submit ideas via the website which are then reviewed during an initial screening process. Successful ideas are then polled to the Blue Skies Executive Committee who vote on which ideas they would like to explore further. These concepts are then presented at Executive Meetings and a decision is taken on whether to take the idea forward.

If you have an idea which you think could help us, you can submit it at [www.blueskies.com/ideas](http://www.blueskies.com/ideas).



### Blue Skies Ghana wins Global Achiever Award

Blue Skies Ghana has picked the industrial sector award for outstanding service to humanity at the Global Achievers Awards held in Accra on the 28th of April. PR Manager, Alistair Djimatey is pictured collecting the award.

Blue Skies have also made it through as finalists of the Grocer Gold Awards in the Employer of the Year category. The winners will be announced at the London Guildhall during a ceremony on the 12th of June.





# Straight from Tree to Tub



Stephen Cudjoe from Cannan Farms is pictured dehusking coconuts. These coconuts will be delivered straight to Blue Skies factory where they will be processed into fresh chunks or blended to create our fresh tasting ice-cream!

Cannan is a Coconut Farm situated in the Central Region of Ghana and has been supplying coconut to Blue Skies for over ten years. There are 19 coconut farmers here who all live at Vanderpuye village, which is home to around 187 people, and is located within the farm.

The coconut palms were planted in 1932 and there are now 50 acres of coconut in cultivation. Cannan also grows cocoa, oil palm and rubber. Coconut is harvested each day after it has fallen from the tree. The husks are removed at the village and then spread on the farm where they are used as a natural fertiliser.

The Blue Skies Foundation has supported Cannan with two projects to date, these include a water system to provide the village with a reliable supply of potable water, and a corn-mill and service centre which allows villagers to grind corn into powder for use in staple foods.

## Ghana attend workshop on sustainability reporting



The team in Ghana have recently participated in workshop organised by GRI (Global Reporting Initiative). GRI is an organisation which helps businesses and governments worldwide understand and communicate

their impact on critical sustainability issues such as climate change, human rights, governance and social well-being. The workshop was designed to help Blue Skies enhance its own sustainability reporting cycle and provide tools to help the business capture key sustainability data. The findings from the Workshop will help Blue Skies to develop its Blue Print Sustainability Plan which will be published later in the year.

## Huge turnout for recruitment drive



Pictured: Over 2,000 people turned out for the first phase of a recruitment exercise at Blue Skies Ghana, after word got out that the business was looking to fill a number of temporary positions in order to meet increasing orders.

# Meet Anele Motaung



My name is Anele Innocent Motaung and I live in Balfour. I am currently studying at Gert Sibande Collage doing Level 4 in Office Administration. At Gert Sibande there is a work experience assignment that is done for students. It is called WBE (Work Based Experience) and is a 5 days experience. I was selected to be part of it and I was placed at Blue Skies Fresh Produce to gain experience there.

We were received with warmth by Ms Waydu Nhlapo HR manager and treated with respect with other 2 students from G.S collage as part of company employees. I gained a lot of experience working in the office.

I learnt how to communicate properly with other people, to be patient with employees, to know how to use office equipment properly, to

have good phone etiquette and to be able to come up with resolutions when there are conflicts, and adapt to changes in the work place. I also learnt how to deal with difficult people in the business by being calm and displaying my best manners

As a student it was a privilege to have worked at Blue Skies and retain more experience in the workplace rather than just studying textbooks. Thank you Blue Skies for giving us the opportunity.

# Baby News



Blue Skies South Africa congratulate Hlengiwe Hadebe, one of our best team leaders on the birth of her baby girl Ziphozonke.

The baby arrived on the 16th of April 2018. She worked that day and knocked off at 6pm, then at 10pm she gave birth!  
*Photo and report by Waydu Nhlapo.*

# Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday to Flavia, our General Manager at Blue Skies Brazil. Flavia was presented with a beautiful cake. Our UK office also celebrated some important birthdays this month with Guy Murfitt turning 50 and Katie Cottrell and Tom Pile turning 40! Many Happy Returns to everyone at Blue Skies who celebrated a birthday this month.

# Eduardo joins the team in Brazil



Eduardo Cavazzana has recently joined Blue Skies Brazil to take up the role of Sales Manager.

His appointment stems from the assignment to develop the local market and support us making Blue Skies brand known

through our Fresh Cut and Juice range. Welcome Eduardo, we wish you good luck and business!

# Introducing Gerald Valkema



*This month, our new International Account Manager, Gerald Valkema, introduces himself...*

What to tell in a few words...always difficult, but let's try. I live just outside to Amsterdam with my girlfriend Anette and our sons Kobus (4yrs) and Willem (2 months). The village where we live really has best of both worlds: 15 minutes cycling from Amsterdam, but very rural at the same time. Being a proper country boy (I own a tractor's driver's license), I always dreamed about settling somewhere where my kids would be able to build huts, play in the garden, play hide & seek etc. just as I used to do when growing up. Also, having my own chickens

(and chicks since early April) and vegetable plot was a wish that has been fulfilled. So, if you any questions about growing potatoes, beans and red beets, or hatching eggs, I happily give you some advice. But when it comes to exotic fruits I am keen to learn a lot from our overseas teams.

I am delighted to have joined Blue Skies in March and can't wait to expand our business in Europe together with the team! Blue Skies already feels like a family with the right focus: healthy, pure products with a strong CSR footprint through our Foundation.

I hope to visit Ghana early July and look forward to meeting my new colleagues. Also, keen to visit the Nsawam Fire station as I am a part time, voluntary firefighter in Amsterdam!



# Foundation Focus

*An update on our latest projects*



There has been more great progress on our 2018 Foundation projects. The Multi Use Games Area for staff and the community at Blue Skies South Africa (pictured above) is now complete, and construction work is up to lintel level on many of our projects in Ghana, including a new kindergarden block for Anoff School (pictured below left) an a new Agriculture Centre at Manya Krobo (pictured below right).



## Brazil supports local teenagers



Blue Skies Brazil, in partnership with Colletivas Refeições (our contractor that manages the canteen) have recently supported a social project helping local teenagers who compete jiu jitsu. Flávia, Daniele and Márcia from Colletivas are pictured with the champions showing their medals.

## Help Rich raise money for RTS Support Group



## Brazil hosts Art Expo



Sesi (Industry Social Service) recently organised an art exhibition at our facility in Brazil from the artist José Carlos Bisconcini Gama. The work is named "fotogosma" and José Carlos seeks to represent contemporary life, the vulnerable man exposed to the incessant flow of signs and techno-images. Our staff are pictured viewing the exhibition.

As featured in the last newsletter, on the 19th May, Rich Railton from the UK office will be attempting the UK 3 Peaks Challenge to raise money for RTS support group. RTS support group offers advice and support to those affected by this extremely rare condition that slows a child's development. To support Rich and help this very worthy cause, you can make a donation at

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/rts3peak>

For more information about RTS or the support group please go to [www.rtsuk.org](http://www.rtsuk.org)