

Editor's note In brief

As we near the end of the year, the new baby in the food and beverage media industry is fast growing through its teething phase. This is already the third edition of *M&J Retail*. Accolades keep flowing in from across the industry, as we end off the year with a bang.

In this issue, we look at the important role that small enterprises or Producer/Distributors – commonly known as PDs – play in the dairy and juice industry. More and more farmers are turning towards distributing their own products and we look at the future of this trend. We also take a look at the challenges of juice retail.

After focusing on the role of the National Health Department in the previous edition, *M&J Retail* now takes a closer look at the role of local government in the maintenance of food quality. Ina Jordaan from the Dairy Standard Agency provides more insight into quality control at retail level. *M&J Retail* also discusses the critically important up-keep of the cold chain during transportation of dairy products.

Genetically modified products have received a lot of media attention in recent months. However, many people do not realise that our industry is also affected by this issue. *M&J Retail* looks at consumer concerns regarding GMOs, as well as the legislation that controls these products.

In the year to come we would love to receive input from our readers. Please feel free to contact us with any industry information or comments on the magazine.

May you enjoy a fruitful 2007!



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Pick 'n Pay CEO steps down

Pick 'n Pay chief executive officer, Sean Summers, will step down from this position at the end of February 2007. He will be succeeded by retail managing director, Nick Badminton. Summers has been CEO of Pick 'n Pay for eleven years. He says that after 33 years of service he wants to take "a bit of a break" after February. Badminton has been with Pick 'n Pay for 27 years and will take over with effect from March next year. – *Press release*

Meet Commander Carton

Tetra Pak South Africa's "The less you mess, the more you score" educational campaign, aims to educate South African children about the importance of caring for the environment and recycling. The edutainment roadshow is expected to reach 25 000 children between the ages of 6 and 12 years and targets schools in Tembisa and Soweto. – www.bizcommunity.com

Nampak R&D sets them apart

The chief executive officer of Nampak, John Bortolan, recently delivered a tribute to Nampak's Research & Development (R&D) facility at a special function to celebrate R&D's sixtieth anniversary in Cape Town. "I think it's important to mention that while your primary focus is solving real issues, you've also been proactive in problem prevention. While a value can't be ascribed to your contributions in this area, the fact that you've averted potential negative impact, and managed risk to the business makes you an invaluable part of the group function." – *Press release*

A fibre boost

Adding soluble fibres to skimmed milk could speed up the coagulation time, improving cost efficiency and impart nutritional benefits say Irish researchers. "The incorporation of soluble dietary