



PACKAGING HOUSE APPOINTMENT

John McConnell has been appointed as national manager for Packaging House, New Zealand's largest distributor of packaging products nationwide. McConnell's management experience in the retail and FMCG sectors, with brands such as Masterfoods Ltd., Speight's and Mac's Brewbars, will stand him in good stead at Packaging House, which has a strong customer base in the hospitality sector – including over 1,000 café clients. Packaging House distributes more than 20,000 products in the food, hygiene and industrial packaging sectors – 90% of which is sourced from local supply partners. John McConnell has been appointed to National Manager for Packaging House.

WINNING MIX

Organic beverage maker Phoenix Organics has won three awards at the NZ Juice & Beverage Association annual awards, including the 'Supreme Award' for its Organic Guava & Apple Juice, the outright winner across all categories. Phoenix Organic Guava & Apple won in the 'Blended Fruit Juice' category while another Phoenix product, Organic Sparkling Blood Orange took out the 'Fruit Drinks' category. "This is the first time an organic beverage has taken out the supreme award" Phoenix Operations manager John Evans said. "We are thrilled to be recognised for the care, effort and expense that goes into making our great tasting organic drinks". New Zealand owned and operated, Phoenix has been making natural and organic beverages since 1986.



HAPPY SNAPPER

For those of you who were wondering who took the pictures at the NZRA Conference in last month's issue, it was David St George from David St George Photography. If you would like to contact David, phone: 021 392 897 or you can view his portfolio at: www.davidstgeorge.blogspot.com.

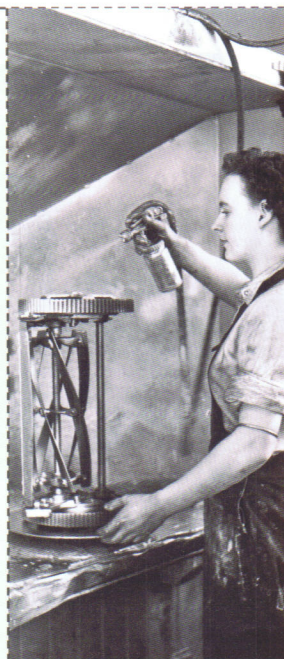


VAN GOGH BRINGS HAPPINESS

It has long been known that food can make you happy but now a restaurant in Quezon City in the Philippines is specialising in doing just that. The uniquely named restaurant, Van Gogh is Bipolar, has a menu based on natural foods that can stimulate 'happy' hormones. The menu consists of foods said to balance the brain's level of serotonin and dopamine, which function to relieve mild to moderate depression. The dishes are even named after celebrities who have suffered from mood disorders, such as the Larry Flynt Cabbage Experience and Jim Carey Sardines. Source: www.alleatenu.com

NEW ZEALAND'S BEST

Not many people know the name Andrew Harbott but, by the end of summer, many of you will be wearing his award-winning designed t-shirt or know someone who does. Hallensteins and Prodesign have just completed a nationwide search for New Zealand's best new t-shirt designer, with over 150 entries being received. From mid-November you will be able to purchase Harbott's design – as well as a collection by other well known New Zealanders – from Hallensteins stores throughout the country. \$10 from every t-shirt sold will go to Make-A-Wish foundation, who has set up a 'wishing pool', guaranteeing that 100% of the money made from the t-shirts will be spent directly on granting wishes. Check out: www.hallensteins.co.nz to find out more, or head to your local Hallensteins store to pick up your favourite design.



MASPORT ENTRE'S 100TH YEAR

When you hear the name Masport you automatically think about lawn mowers. But did you know that Masport has been involved in other, less conventional manufacturing over the last 100 years? During World War II, the employees put their skills to filling the needs of the time by making grenades, armoured vehicle tracks and mortar blocks. Founded by engineer and entrepreneur Reuben Porter – along with Harold Mason and Edwin Jones – Masport quickly gained a reputation for quality engineering. They created New Zealand's first fridge and lawn mower and were later responsible for the first commercial production of both the push mower and the motor mower in New Zealand during the 1930s. Masport – which enters its 100th year on 1 December – now manufactures over 200 models of lawn mower and sells more than 100,000 mowers in 30 countries.