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INTEGRATED SYSTEMS FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN PERISHABLE INDUSTRY

Fresh Connections Southern Africa Conference and Trade Show



Prophet was once again a proud sponsor of the ninth annual Fresh Connections Southern Africa Conference and Trade Show hosted by the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) held on 30 and 31 July at the Century City Conference Centre in Cape Town. This event attracts both local and international speakers and offers attendees ample opportunity to make new connections by networking with 600 decision makers in the local and global fresh produce supply chain.

Says JD van Wyk, director at Prophet SA: "We are really excited to continue our partnership with the PMA again this year. Besides the invaluable exposure that this event offers us, it is also great to connect with our clients and to learn about current global trends and business opportunities."

The London Produce Show and Conference 2019

Held at the Grosvenor House in London on 5 June, the sixth annual London Produce Show and Conference truly lived up to its aim to bring the world of fresh produce together. Presented by the Fresh Produce Consortium and Produce Business magazine, this networking event offers suppliers and major buyers in the retail, food service and wholesale sectors the opportunity to connect and share experiences.

Says Claire Powell, Business Development and Marketing Manager at Prophet UK: "Prophet enjoyed attending the opening cocktail reception as well as catching up with old friends and making new connections."

Team members from Prophet UK also attended the annual Fresh Produce Consortium Fresh Awards held at the Tower of London on 6 June. Says Claire: "This lovely occasion, hosted by former English international cricketer Graeme Swann, recognises outstanding achievements in the fresh produce industry. Congratulations to all the winners."



Paul Seekins (Prophet UK), Yvonne Tweddle and Francesca Hopkins (Jupiter)



Jonathan Tremayne (Global Produce Food Group), Claire Powell (Prophet UK) and Herman Engelbrecht (Karsten UK)



The Tower Bridge, London



The London Produce Show and Conference



David Farrell



Max du Preez



Mike Schussler

Well-Known Keynote Speakers to Offer Valuable Insights at Prophet SA Annual Conference

Prophet SA's annual conference will take place in Somerset West on Friday, 29 November. The conference is certainly a highlight on the Prophet SA team's calendar, and this year's event will focus on topics that include the South African political landscape and the state of our economy as well as sustainability strategies within the agricultural and food sectors.

An insightful morning awaits the conference attendees with a power-packed line-up of keynote speakers including Mike Schussler, David Farrell and Max du Preez. All three speakers are renown experts in their field. Mike Schussler is the founder and owner of Economists.co.za and also a two-time winner of the South African Economist of the Year Award. David Farrell is an agri supply-chain sustainability practitioner and founding partner at Blue North Sustainability (Pty) Ltd. Max du Preez, writer, columnist and documentary filmmaker is no stranger to the South African political landscape.

The conference brings together clients and suppliers that have journeyed with Prophet SA and is a valuable networking opportunity.

Prophet SA Hosts International Students

By Claire Powell

Prophet UK was delighted to send two of its students to Prophet SA as part of a work placement programme during July this year. Among others, the students visited the Le Roux Group, Thornlands, Fruitways and Kingfisher Fruits to create exciting new customer stories for Prophet's digital and print channels.

Says JD van Wyk, director at Prophet SA: "The students' input provides a fresh perspective on our customers' system experience. The projects stretched beyond merely the technical aspects of our systems and the users' needs. It included raising the profile of some of our key clients whilst also exploring the strategic value of these partnerships as well as the role ERP systems hold for these clients and the industry in general."

Will Davis, a film, television and digital production student from Bath Spa University and Laura Walker, a geography student from Birmingham University, were excited to have the opportunity to spend some time with the team in South Africa. Says Laura: "This trip gave me the opportunity to blend much of my academic learning with the practical application of a work placement. The itinerary was amazing!"

Will adds: "I aim to develop my film making capabilities in a completely different environment that I'm used to. I also want to continually cultivate a greater understanding of how to work closely with a business, ensuring that their needs are met and learning how to achieve their specific targets for the film."



Celebrating 30 Years of Making a Difference in the Fresh Produce Industry

Founded in 1989, Prophet celebrates its 30-year anniversary this year, and seven team members at Prophet SA have journeyed with the business for ten years or more – a significant milestone indeed.

With offices on three continents, these colleagues are celebrating ten or more years of service this year: the 'Super Seven' in Somerset West, South Africa; 'Fabulous Five' in Westlake Village, North America and 'Excellent Eighteen' in Meriden, UK.

Charl van Loggerenberg, Operations Manager at Prophet SA, expressed his thanks to the Super Seven in the South Africa '10 Year Service' club: "Due to the complexity and demands of our industry, experienced staff is invaluable and the cornerstone of our growth and success over the years. These individuals have all contributed to Prophet in different ways, but all have one thing in common – a passion for systems and technology that drive our industry. The longevity of these staff members is also a testament of the healthy working environment we aim to cultivate at Prophet and we're grateful for the many years we have been able to work alongside these amazing colleagues."

Spotlight on Zonnika Augustyn



Zonnika Augustyn

As part of Prophet's 30-year anniversary, we're celebrating team members that have been part of the business for more than ten years. Zonnika Augustyn has been with the Prophet SA since 2007, and we interviewed her to learn more about her and her journey with Prophet.

Describe how your career has progressed at Prophet SA since you joined the company until where you find yourself now.

When I started working at Prophet 12 years ago, I knew nothing about software or the support thereof, but with time, dedication and a lot of help from people with more knowledge, my career has become something that I can still see myself doing every day. My current position is allowing me to assist our support department to grow in terms of skills, trouble shooting and building lasting relationships with our clients.

What are your biggest personal and professional achievements to date?

My biggest personal accomplishment is definitely my two children and the love they have brought to our family. Motherhood changes a person in ways that you never thought possible, but I would not trade it for the world. On a professional level, I feel my achievement is the fact that I have found the perfect job that keeps on challenging me to change and better myself in different areas. It is not always easy, and is sometimes stressful, but it does keep you on your toes.

What is on your wish list for your next five years at Prophet SA?

That we will continuously strive to live our company values of professionalism, integrity, ambition and growth, recognition and family to the best of our abilities.

What do you like most about your job?

I like the fact that no two days are ever the same. There are always new challenges that need to be attended to and you still learn something new every day.

What is your daily motto?

"You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated"
 – Maya Angelou

