

B30E successfully replaces two older ADTs at Robberg Quarry



Charlotte Whitton, the first woman mayor of Ottawa in Canada once famously said: “Whatever women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult.”

In Plettenberg Bay, in the Western Cape, another woman knew this was not difficult when she did what Mayor Whitton suggested and also achieved excellent results. She traded in two older Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs) and replaced them with one new Bell B30E ADT.

One would imagine that the field of aggregate and sand producers would be a male dominated industry and this is generally the norm, but when the Aggregates and Sand Producers’ Association of South Africa (ASPASA), recently announced the winner of its First New Member award in 2015, the award did not go to a man.

It should then come as no surprise when one hears that the award went to Charmaine Botha, the Managing Member of Robberg Quarry cc that is situated at Plettenberg Bay, the same decision maker who decided to replace two older haulage machines with one, new Bell B30E ADT.

“The Robberg Quarry has been around since the 1980s and has had several owners before my business partner, Peter Emmanuel, and I bought it from Richie Julyan in 2004,” Charmaine Botha tells us. “Before Robberg, we owned the Phantom Quarry in Knysna, which we sold when we ran out of material.”

Richie Julyan’s son Rickus is the current Quarry Manager for the Robberg Quarry. The Robberg Quarry produces stone material from 4,75mm to big boulders and

everything in-between such as G1, G2, G5 aggregates and crusher and slurry dust. Its biggest clients are a sister company Robberg Readymix, Much Asphalt and an associated BEE company, Xantera Brick. Clients are serviced as far away as Tsitsikamma and Mossel Bay.

“Our operations are similar to that of any opencast mine and consist of removing and stockpiling overburden for later rehabilitation, drilling, blasting and then loading and hauling the quartzite material to our primary crusher,” Charmaine says. “And as with any operation of this nature, we look to produce our products at the lowest cost per tonne.”

“We had been running two 25-ton ADTs for 10 years but as their maintenance and repair costs increased, we thought it time for a change and thought to buy a slightly bigger and more efficient machine to reduce our production costs,” she adds. “After getting the Bell B30E ADTs running costs from Bell Equipment’s Ian Marshall and talking to other owners of a similar machine in Port Elizabeth, we happily settled on the new generation Bell B30E ADT.”

Robberg Quarry’s Bell B30E ADT was purchased with an extended warranty to 4 000 hours on the wet drive-train and hydraulics, and had already clocked up over 1 000 hours in the six months since its arrival at the quarry. A tailgate has been fitted to prevent spillage and the standard Bell Fleetm@tic package monitors both the machine and the operator’s performance.

“We’ve been very impressed by the Bell B30E’s work rate and performance in the time that it’s been here and this machine easily moves between 130 and 150 tonnes of material in an hour, when loaded by our 30-ton excavator,” Rickus Julyan says. “Even though we’ve recently improved the angle of the ramps in the pit, its fuel burn of around 13 litres per hour makes us very happy.”

“One can clearly see that Bell Equipment has done their homework on this new generation ADT as this one truck gives us far improved production figures compared to our two older machines,” he says. “The Bell B30E ADT’s performance is complemented by the excellent technical back-up we receive from Bell Equipment’s Customer Service Centre in George which recently did a service for us on a Saturday so as to not hamper our production schedules.”

Robberg Quarry has its own mechanic and he works through a strict checklist with each machine operator in the quarry’s fleet, prior to the start of daily operations.

Both owners of the company, Charmaine and Peter, are pleased with their purchase and the immediate effect it has had on their production figures but Peter is quick to point out that Charmaine was the driving force in exchanging two older ADTs for one new generation Bell B30E ADT.



Left: Koos Matthee (Team Leader Bell Equipment Customer Service Centre George), Rickus Julyan (Robberg Quarry Manager), Fiona Johnson (Bell Equipment Sales Representative), Charmaine Botha (Co-owner Robberg Quarry), Peter Emmanuel (Co-owner Robberg Quarry) and Whitey Prinsloo (Bell B30E ADT Operator).