

Pre-owned ADTs enjoy a productive second life with MH Mining

A combination of rock-solid performance, reliability and good advice from a family-run business, has seen a Northern Cape alluvial diamond miner place his total trust for the haulage of precious diamond bearing gravel in Bell Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs).

When Mark Hayward married Elena Graven, he not only gained an extended family but also got to learn a lot about the mining and business skills of running an alluvial diamond mine. His father-in-law, Ronnie Graven Senior, had been mining alluvial diamonds for years as had his brothers-in-law, Otto and Ronnie Junior.

“Working in the family concern was great as there was total involvement from all of us and I learnt a lot from one of the best in the business, my father-in-law, Ronnie Graven,” Mark Hayward tells us at his now independent

mining operation, MH Mining, at Vaalbos, near Barkly-West. “The experience I gained over a decade, has stood me in good stead as I not only learnt how to mine and run a business, but also about what works best in terms of the correct earthmoving equipment, without which we cannot mine.”

Mark bought his first used Bell B25D ADT from GF Mining in 2012, on the advice of his in-laws and, as they are partners in MH Mining, their input is imperative. The Graven family had found over the years that Bell ADTs are reliable and cost-effective, with production figures impacting positively on their bottom line. Bell Equipment’s solid technical back up added credence to their experience.

“This particular machine has now clocked over 15 000 hours and we still use it every day, especially for moving

waste rock and topsoil to our rehabilitation areas,” Mark tells us. “We believe in mining responsibly and rehabilitation is vital for us in terms of our mining permit.”

“It is really due to the positive experience we’ve had with this Bell B25D ADT that sold us onto later and larger ADT models that help us in attaining the production cycles that make this exercise worthwhile,” he adds.

In November 2014, Mark added a used Bell B35D ADT and working through Eric van der Merwe, Bell Equipment’s Sales Representative in Kimberley, bought a pre-owned Bell B40D ADT that had been imported from the United Kingdom. The latter ADT had done 11 000 hours.

“I’ve been impressed with the advice given to me by Eric van der Merwe as apart from his excellent product knowledge, he has first-hand experience of alluvial diamond mining which makes him so well suited for what he does now,” Mark says.

MH Mining’s operation is run in a sensible way with the processing plant placed in the centre of the mining area, so ensuring that hauls from the mining face are all relatively short and don’t exceed one kilometre. Topsoil is stripped and stockpiled, as is overburden to be used in rehabilitation as an ongoing process. The Bell ADTs hauling the diamond bearing gravels to the process plant

return to the pit with full loads as the discarded material from the pans is returned for rehabilitation. MH Mining at this time uses one 16-foot pan that is fed through a process of screens that remove the bulk of the sand and oversized material.

“In the near future we’re planning to put a Finlay 883 Screen in the actual mining pit that will effectively sort our gravels immediately and leave oversized and unsuitable soil in the pit for immediate rehabilitation, so cutting our haulage costs,” Mark says. “Some of this material - especially that with a high oversized percentage - will be screened out using the Finlay Screen and by doing so, we would avoid double handling of essentially waste material.”

Mark recently enlarged his fleet of Bell B40D ADTs when, in February and April 2015 respectively, he bought another two machines from Bell Equipment’s pre-owned division. These machines, even under full loads, regularly return fuel burn figures of between 18 and 21 litres per hour.

“Any fleet such as ours is very dependent on solid technical back-up and this we’ve come to appreciate from Bell Equipment in Kimberley,” Mark says. “Any part that they may not have in stock is quickly sourced overnight and our downtime is cut to a minimum.”



From left: Bell Sales Representative, Eric van der Merwe with the owner of MH Mining, Mark Hayward and the Team Leader of Bell Equipment Kimberley, Shaun Malan.

