

JCB is 'the' TLB for Joubert Construction

When you mention the acronym TLB you often hear JCB in the same sentence as people associate this as a machine of high quality for a versatile backhoe loader.

These are the thoughts of Dawid Joubert of Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), and he should know as he owns four such machines. Named after his late father and following in his footsteps, Dawid is a builder. "I had literally learnt about building at my father's knee and worked with him during my school and university holidays," he says. Dawid Junior then went on to obtain a BTech Building degree.

"My father had started Joubert Construction along with some partners in 1982. When he passed away in 2005, we carried on the business until 2009 when his partners retired, and I rebranded the now closed corporation as Joubert Construction East Cape cc."

Joubert Construction had built its name undertaking construction in the wider Gqeberha area across the commercial, industrial and domestic markets. "We also diversified into building student accommodation, doing project management and fencing," Dawid says. "It was

during the latter activity, in about 2015, that we hired in a backhoe loader (TLB) and I got the idea that plant hire may be a viable and profitable option for us.

Joubert Construction bought its first JCB 3DX Backhoe Loader that same year and this machine has given its owner more than 9 000 hours of profitable production. A second similar machine followed in 2017 and a third in 2018. When the machines are not in use on one of Joubert Construction's many varied building sites they are hired out.

"We have an arrangement with a company working in the Coega harbour, north of Gqeberha, where once a month one of our JCB 3DX machines is lowered into the hold of a ship to clean out the holds of a bulk ore carrier of clinker," Dawid says. "The TLB is used to clean out the bulk of the residue material and then manual labourers with brooms clean up the rest."



Bell Sales Representative, Tom Schwartz (left), with Dawid Joubert, owner of Joubert Construction East Cape cc.

Other uses of the machines include loading trucks with the front bucket, trenching and backfilling, doing housekeeping, levelling small platforms and clearing bush. The backhoe has a standard bucket 600mm wide and a specialised reinforced trenching bucket that is 350mm wide for harder soils.

According to Dawid, Joubert Construction's JCB Backhoe Loaders are popular with clients as they

have a reputation for being well-maintained meaning the machines offer high mechanical availabilities when on hire. "My plant manager, Rudi Delpont, really looks after the machines well, as do our operators, and preventative maintenance is key to keep having serviceable machines for our own use and that in plant hire," Dawid adds. "To quote an example, our oldest machine had done 9 000 hours before we needed to replace a clutch on it, which speaks volumes for the both the quality of the equipment and the way it is operated and maintained."

Dawid goes further to say that when used properly, their JCB TLBs return fuel consumption figures of between 6 and 7 litres an hour. When on hire for short contracts they supply the fuel, but on longer contracts the party hiring the machine will supply this.

"In 2021, when we were researching the market to buy a fourth TLB, we were happy to see that Tom Schwartz's name popped up as the Sales Representative for Bell Equipment in Port Elizabeth and that Bell Equipment was now the official agent," Dawid smiles. "We've known Tom a while from deep-sea fishing days and we placed an order with him for the machine, which was delivered during one of the spells when the country was locked down due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

According to Dawid, any piece of mechanical equipment is only as good as its maintenance and a strict regimen of daily maintenance is key to longer machine life. He and his plant manager,

Rudi, know the tell-tale signs of diligent lubrication and look out for areas where dust is evident, which points to a grease point being full. They are further assisted by a semi-retired mechanic who had worked on JCB equipment in the past and now takes care of their out-of-warranty services.

Joubert Construction East Coast cc is showing steady growth, no doubt due to its reputation of bringing in projects on time and on budget, and its plant hire service is not lagging. This success prompts Dawid to plan ahead as he explains: "My plan for the next five to 10 years is to expand my JCB TLB fleet to six machines and to possibly add two 20-ton excavators and four skid steer loaders, all of which I know could be supplied by Bell Equipment with its wide product offering and excellent aftersales technical backup. Six 10-cubic metre tipper trucks would complete the fleet."

"In my mind, if you say TLB, the name JCB pops up involuntarily due to the quality of the design and build of the machine and the four JCB TLBs we own and operate prove that."

