

JCB Wheel Loaders make a huge impact at Mpact

Recycling is said to be the process of reusing discarded materials which can be made into new products and one company has got that right, with a little help from a certain brand of yellow metal.

Mpact is, according to its website, the leading paper and plastics recycler in South Africa and proudly states that in the last 10 years it has collected 11,3 million tons of paper and paper packaging. This means 11,3 million tons of a valuable resource did not become litter or pollution.

Working out of 10 branches spread across South Africa, with two more in Namibia and one in Mozambique, Mpact uses state-of-the-art recycling and packaging technologies to convert pre-consumer and post-consumer recyclable materials into innovative plastic and paper solutions.

Visiting one such branch in Parow, Cape Town we meet the Branch Manager, Shaun Smit. "We have two branches in Cape Town with this one handling about 70% cardboard packaging and also paper, plastics and glass while our other branch at Epping handles more higher-grade paper," Shaun says. "What we find surprising is that despite the inroads that digital media has made on our society we still find a high percentage of newspapers and magazines coming into our branch."

Material coming into the Mpact Parow branch is sourced from printing companies, shopping malls, the company's own buy-back centres and hawkers who roam the streets with their familiar high-piled trolleys.

Working under roof, as the company knows that rain is not good for its source material, the operational side of Mpact's Parow branch is a hive of activity as trucks bearing loaded skips and big mesh baskets deposit ton after ton of cardboard and paper that is first sorted into type. This is then fed onto a wide metal conveyor that feeds the baler as the onward recycling journey starts with material in orderly wire-bound bales.

"You'll notice immediately that the vast amount of especially cardboard packaging we handle here simply could not be fed onto the conveyor by hand

and that is why we use a wheel loader to push the piles of cardboard onto the metal conveyor," Shaun says pointing to a bright yellow JCB 422ZX Wheel Loader. "Our previous Bell L1204E Loader had reached close to 19 000 hours and even after undergoing a rebuild at 17 500 hours, it was time to replace it after five years of excellent service."

Shaun says that the senior managers tasked with finding replacement machines, researched the wider wheel loader market thoroughly and saw many sales representatives plying their products.

"Our choice of machine fell on the JCB 422ZX Wheel Loader because of the superior technical backup service we had received from Bell Equipment in the past," Shaun says. "We were pleased to see that Bell



Equipment was now the South African distributor of JCB equipment as this size machine with its 1,7-cubic metre bucket and enough grunt from its 93kW motor, fits the needs of our operation perfectly. We bought a similar machine for our Epping branch."

"We're of the opinion that we'd rather pay a bit more for such equipment and have the assurance of proper technical backup that is quick to respond to our calls and have the knowledge and correct spare parts to minimise any unforeseen downtime brought on by repairs and servicing," Shaun adds. "Having built a solid working relationship with the likes of the Regional Aftersales Manager, Pieter Neethling, and Kobus van Zyl, the Workshop Manager at Bell Cape Town, we have that assurance which gives us the confidence to push the JCB 422ZX to high hours of service."

The JCB 422ZX Wheel Loader for the Mpac Epping branch was delivered in February 2022 and the one working at Parow, in July the same year. Both machines will be serviced and maintained by Bell Equipment even after their standard warranties of 12 months, unlimited hours have expired.

"Proof of this reliable backup was seen recently when we needed a thermostat changed on this new machine and this was done quickly with no questions asked," Shaun says. "We realise that we may face special challenges as we're using the machine in an enclosed space that can get very dusty with heat building up and we've found the reversible fan on the JCB 422ZX Wheel Loader to be very effective to negate this."

Shaun expects the machine to be used for between 180 and 220 hours a month and an average recorded fuel burn of 6,5 litres an hour is pleasing, given its workload.

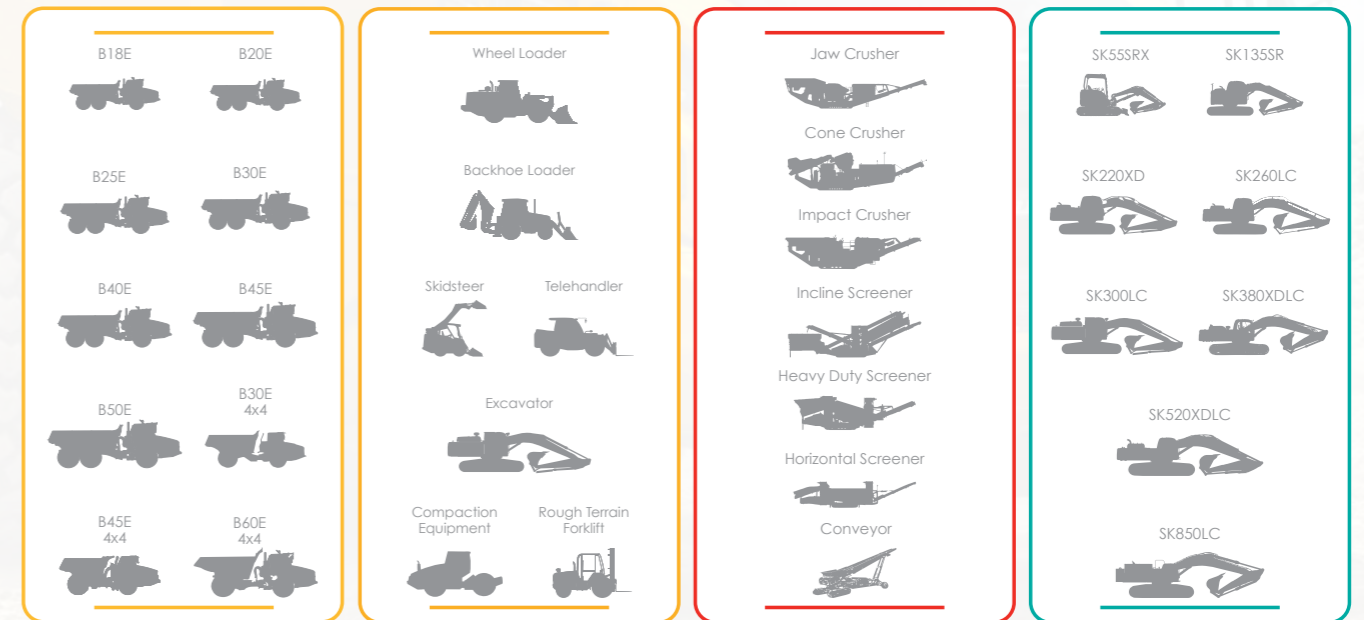
"Just as we live by our company motto of 'smarter, sustainable solutions' so we believe that solid backup service of any mechanical equipment sells the second machine. This has been proved here with even a third machine (at Epping) in the offing," Shaun says. "The whole purchasing experience from meeting Bell Equipment Sales Representative, Fiona Johnson, to the machine's delivery, and knowing there will always be reliable support, was a pleasant one and we look forward to clocking high hours on this JCB 422ZX Wheel Loader."



Fiona Johnson, Bell Sales Representative, with Shaun Smit, Branch Manager Mpac Parow in Cape Town, standing in the area where the JCB 422ZX Wheel Loader in the background, loads the conveyor feeding the baler.

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