

# MENZI'S SPIDER EXCAVATOR



One of the successful presentations at the April roadshow was from the **Zillmere Waterways Maintenance Team** comprising of Barry Canfield, Paul Smith and Jeshua Munro. Due to the success and popularity of the spider excavator, further details have been included in this edition of *The Works*.

The latest in Swiss technology, the Menzi Excavator was imported to Australia by Caldme Excavations and taken straight from the docks to BCW work sites. The Zillmere team were in negotiations with Caldme Excavations for many months before the Spider arrived in Australia, showing that BCW employees are always on the look out for new and better ways to improve work efficiencies.

The Menzi Muck Excavator, gained the nickname of "the spider" for obvious aesthetic reasons, mainly its spider like appearance and the way it moves. It is able to demonstrate its superiority through its uniquely moveable legs. Each leg has the capability to move up, down, in and out without affecting the positioning of the other legs.

Some of the exceptional qualities of the spider includes its ability to elevate to a height of 4.6 metres including a 2 metre clearance to the undercarriage. It also has the ability to retract to a size of 2.1 metres wide allowing the excavator to be easily transported to each job-site. The rear wheelbase can extend to 4.4 metres while the front wheelbase can extend to 6 metres allowing performance of difficult manoeuvres while maintaining excellent stability. The telescopic boom has a reach of 8.5 metres with a 1 cubic metre bucket. This is currently interchangeable with a rake attachment which has revolutionised the process of de-reeding creeks. A series of other interchangeable attachments will be available in the future to further enhance the spiders many features.

The independently operated legs allow the spider to straddle creeks, working up or down stream keeping the environmental impact on job-sites to a minimum. The four wheel drive traction makes rough uneven and slippery terrain manageable. Very soft marine mud is no obstacle for the spider where normal situations would require mats or pontoons for support. A bio-degradable hydraulic oil is used in the spider ensuring minimal environmental impact if there was an incident.

In the short time Zillmere Depot have had the spider available to them, it has shown that it can work in a greater variety of site conditions, including steep slopes and marine mud.