

SCHAFFER 3550 ARTICULATED LOADER



Celebrating 10 years in the Australian market.

Built in Germany from quality components, there is no messing about when you're in the presence of the tough Schaffer 3550 Articulated Loader!

Our test site was a decent-sized golf course with lots of room and plenty of loads to move from A to B, then back to A again. The first noticeable feature about this machine is its size; there is no way it's going to get small man's syndrome. That said, on paper it's smaller than you think: with the removable hard top on, its height is 2.23m and without a bucket the length is 3.68m. It's also worth mentioning the 2.95 pivot point, higher than most, if not all, tiny telehandlers at full extension.

There are two very different and very important features about the Schaffer compared to similar articulated loaders on the Australian market.

Number 1: the oscillating articulation joint means that not only does the

machine articulate from left to right, but the front and rear sections of the machine oscillate up and down. Think about driving up a large gutter, one front wheel climbs up while the other three remain in contact with the road (in the same situation other machines could potentially have two wheels spinning freely in the air). This motion gives stability, reduces the stress factor on working parts and provides extra



traction and comfort that is expected from a machine with four wheels.

Number 2: while in control of the loader, the operator is sitting in the rear section. This provides more space, a better field of vision and, most importantly, makes more sense when in control of a moving articulated vehicle. To sit in the front is like reversing a trailer while being in the trailer!

As tempting as some circle work on the green was, we had some work to do. In the driver's seat the operator has an excellent vision of what's going on, controls are simple and robust and movement is smooth and fluid. The 4WD system is traditional with Limited Slip differentials front and rear powered by true hydrostatic with drive shaft directly driven from the bulletproof 50hp Kubota diesel engine.

After some practice manoeuvres and



getting accustomed to the controls I tested the pushing power. Driving into a large compost pile and filling the loading bucket was no problem. The next step was to find a large tree stump, pick it up and drive across uneven ground: too easy! Now I'm impressed with the stability of this machine while moving loads. The load chart says it will take a load of 2050kg to tip over the machine while in the straight position and 1600kg to tip while in an articulated position. Without a bucket fitted this machine weighs 3150kg so I'm thinking the load chart is impressive.

It's obvious to me that this load-handling device can do its job to a 'T'. It is built like a German tank! The rose joints in charge of keeping the front connected to the rear are larger than both my hands made into a fist and come with a whopping 3000-hour warranty. The hydraulics have a 2000-hour warranty while the rest of the

machine has a general 12-month warranty. Schaffer has a national dealer network – WA, QLD, VIC, SA, NT – and has been selling for over ten years. The spares department provides overnight delivery to most of mainland Australia while your local Kubota dealer can look after any engine service requirements.

The Schaffer 3550 is built to last and perform its duty day after day. If you're looking at getting a loader then you must

take a closer look at the Schaffer 3550. Australian machines generally have an output ranging from 26-130hp. With a multitude of attachments that can be swapped over without even getting out of the driver's seat and fuel economy that is second to none, Schaffer could be just what your business needs.

For more information call 1300 882 161 or visit www.schaffer-loaders.com.au

THE 'OVER-ENGINEERED' LOADER

Schaffer celebrates 10 years of being tough with trees.



It's been 10 years since Schaffer Loaders hung up their shingle in Australia – and their tough German build has made them a tree industry favourite.

"It's hard to believe it's been 10 years since we imported our first Schaffer loader," Schaffer Loaders General Manager in Australia Cameron Moir says. "All I know is that they've been very

popular in the tree industry."

Cameron believes the key reason is their tough build. "The Schaffers are built to a really heavy-duty specification in Germany – in fact you could say they're 'over-engineered' – and that's a bonus for a tree care professional. Yet they're also very compact and nimble for tight situations from just 1250mm wide."

Stuart Proudfoot of Tree Amigos in Perth agrees. He bought his first Schaffer mini loader around four years ago, basing his choice not just on the machine but on Schaffer Australia's "amazing" service and support.

"I bought the Schaffer to do the heavy lifting and save my staff's

backs," Stuart explains. He says his little red loader has proved to be "an insane bit of equipment for this industry – crazily tough for its size".

Schaffer loaders are available in sizes ranging from 26hp up to 130hp, with most arborists choosing the 26hp to 50hp models. They are renowned as versatile tool carriers that can wield almost any labour-saving attachment.

The loaders meet the rigorous standards required for inclusion on many local government preferred supplier lists around Australia.



**For more information
contact 1300 88 21 61 or
visit www.schaffer-loaders.com.au**



Williams Pro Tree Services