

hay making



Brett Vallender says while some buyers just want quantity, quality is the most important aspect for others.

Quality lucerne recognised

By Cathy Walker

With the imminent arrival of a baby, Nathalia hay growers and mixed farmers Brett and Courtney Vallender weren't able to travel to Adelaide to accept their award for best lucerne in Victoria by feed analysis in a national hay quality competition.

But they described it as a nice surprise and were pleased to be recognised for the quality of their product.

Mr Vallender said last year they produced 330 tonnes of lucerne from 60 ha, part of their 258 ha property that also carries prime lambs.

"Anything grown on the farm went to Feed Central and that's how we were nominated for the award," he said.

"A lot of my hay went to Queensland although technically you don't get told (where it's going).

"They (Feed Central) work on my behalf to sell the fodder and you get paid 30 days after delivery so the



Brett Vallender is happy with the service he receives from Feed Central — he says the broking business takes the worry out of getting paid.

system works well for us — dealing direct with farmers we have been strung out for 12 months on occasions."

He said each season when he had bales on the ground Feed Central sent someone out to test the hay.

"Most people buy on a quality basis," Mr Vallender said.

The winning bale returned crude protein of 22.6 per cent and ME (energy) of 10.10 per cent.

At 30, Mr Vallender is a 14-year veteran of the hay game. Despite coming off a dairy farm he said farming was not an easy business to get into.

Without the assistance of their families, he said they would have struggled to purchase their first farm — but now they had, it was full steam ahead.

"Dad always said you've got to have a go while you're young," Mr Vallender said.

► Continued on page 7

McHale

BALER & WRAPPER SPECIALIST
AMAZING FINANCE

0%
P.A.
PFGCREDIT
30% DEPOSIT



SEE THE COMPLETE RANGE

Valid until 30/09/2014 or while stocks last.



Echuca CIH Sales & Service
(03) 5482 1733
43 Sturt St, Echuca

John Sanderson Machinery
(03) 5794 2272
36-38 Industrial Cres, Nagambie

Bertoli Agricultural and Industrial
(03) 5821 3299
198-200 Numurkah Rd, Shepparton

Grogan's Machinery
(03) 5448 3535
273-279 Midland Hwy, Epsom

Cobram Farm Equipment
(03) 5872 1722
3687 Murray Valley Hwy, Cobram

1800 424 241 www.mchale.com.au

*Structured Terms, Fees and Lending Conditions Apply. 30% deposit. GST back followed by 24 monthly repayments. While stocks last. To Approved ABN Applicants Only. PFG Credit is a division of De Lage Landen Pty Limited ABN 20 101 692 040. Valid for V640 and V660 models only.