

## “The Next Generation in Agriculture”

“What opportunities lie ahead for young family farmers?”

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011

**Time:** 12 Noon, Free Roast Lunch  
Food provided by Waubra Catering

**Venue:** Waubra Community Hub, Recreation Reserve, Sunraysia Highway, Waubra

**Speakers:** Mike Stephens – Manager, Mike Stephens and Associates.

Mike will provide an overview of the big picture for Australian agriculture, how the region can respond to changing demands, and what future opportunities these present for young people in agriculture. Mike is the principal of Mike Stephens and Associates which commenced operations in 1983. The business employs a team of over twenty people and provides consultancy services to the agriculture sector including farm businesses, industry organisations and government.

**Neil Barr – Social Researcher, Department of Primary Industries**

Neil will provide a view of the changing demographics in rural Victoria and the Central Highlands Region making comment on where these trends may lead in the future. Neil is a social researcher with DPI based in Bendigo. During a research career spanning the last quarter of a century he has pursued his interest in the restructuring of agriculture and the adoption of conservation innovations.

Question and answer session with a perspective from young people involved in agriculture:-

**Gavin Lilley, a broad acre farm employee from Waubra**

**Andrew Whitlock of Precision Agriculture, Ballarat**

**Victoria Leeke, from the viticulture industry at Great Western.**

This forum will be of interest to all ages of farmers and those with an interest in the future of agriculture in the region. A thought provoking view of **what the future holds for “the next generation”** will assist farmers to take a long term view of prospects in the industry.

**Panel discussion:**

**Contact:**

Please RSVP for catering purposes by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May;

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