

Working Beyond the Boundaries

Working Beyond the Boundaries is a community engagement program delivered by Parks Victoria in partnership with AMES (Australian Multicultural Education Service) at Werribee Park in Western Melbourne District. The program is modelled on similar programs in New York, Toronto and Kew Gardens, UK. The program was initiated in August 2012 with the Kitchen Garden Project, which was aimed at addressing isolation issues among members of the CALD communities and at the same time provides a tool for community engagement with the local CALD community. In the year that it has been running the program has gone on to spawn a number of other community engagement projects including a traineeship and volunteer activity days. The project has now featured in a number of local and national medium, all highlighting the *Healthy Parks Healthy People* philosophy.

The project will be presented by **Dr Melika Yassin** Sheik-Eldin. Manager, Settlement Partnerships, AMES, and James Brincat, Ranger in Charge, Werribee Plains and will focus on using a partnership model to deliver the best outcome for socially based projects.



Biographies

James Brincat has worked in horticulture and parks for the last 25 years, often working with friends groups and volunteers in some of Melbourne's most famous parks and gardens. His work has taken him to Kew Gardens, Toronto and New York. Last year he was given the opportunity to deliver a community engagement project that was sustainable and would allow Parks Victoria to connect with new and emerging communities.

Dr Melika Yassin Sheik-Elden is a doctor in Marine Biology and is Manager, Settlement Programs for Australian Multicultural Education Services and has dedicated her life to working with new and emerging communities many of which are like herself, refugees. She is an advisor to the Australian government and sits on a number of advisory councils. Dr Melika was instrumental in developing the project's working model and much of its success is attributed to her ability to continually take the project that one step further.