



Lecture series 2009

Journeys of Enlightenment

FRENCH EXPLORATION OF TERRES AUSTRALES

Friday
19 June
6.00pm

How France won the scientific race but lost a continent:

The race to locate Terra Australis

A lecture by Ms Noelene Bloomfield, Research Fellow
The University of Western Australia

Journeys of Enlightenment – French exploration of Terres Australes is an exhibition developed by the Western Australian Museum that celebrates the dramatic and often tragic journeys of the 18th and 19th century explorers and scientists who ventured to unknown lands to extend man's knowledge of the world.

Most Australians do not realise how close Australia was to having two languages and two cultures like Canada. The hundreds of French names on the Australian coast are an intriguing puzzle to many but until recently our history books have largely neglected this fascinating part of Australia's early history. France sent many scientific expeditions to the southern oceans and made significant contributions to the fields of anthropology, astronomy, botany, cartography, geography, geology and zoology in this part of the world.

This presentation will clarify why there are so many French names in a country that was eventually settled by the British; and seeks to explain why the French did not colonise the continent they wistfully called 'La France Australe'.

Noelene Bloomfield is a former Senior Lecturer and now a Research Fellow in French Studies, at the University of Western Australia. She has travelled extensively in both France and Australia and accessed archival materials, journals and charts relating to the various French voyages.

Cost: \$10 per person

Bookings are essential on 9431 8455

Please RSVP by Wednesday 17 June 2009

Please join us for refreshments after the lecture

With special thanks to our exhibition partners

www.museum.wa.gov.au