



Lecture series 2009

Journeys of Enlightenment

FRENCH EXPLORATION OF TERRES AUSTRALES

Friday
24 July
6.00pm

**The French contribution to discovering and naming Australian plants:
The voyagers, the scientists and the plants**

A lecture by Dr Alex George, Botanist and Author

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.

Between 1771 and 1840 thirteen French expeditions for scientific discovery visited Australian shores, most carried scientists or crew who collected plants. These specimens were taken back to France and studied and many were named as new species. Many of the names commemorate crew members and important people of the day. The specimens are now lodged in a number of herbaria (notably Paris, Florence and Geneva) and remain an important resource for study.

Alex George worked as a botanist with the Western Australian Herbarium for 21 years, then as Executive Editor of the *Flora of Australia* project in Canberra for 12 years. Since 1993 he has been a freelance botanist, editor and indexer based in Perth.

Alex has published over 150 botanical papers and books, many including data and discussion of the historical background. These include *William Dampier in New Holland: Australia's First Natural Historian* (1999). He has named some 400 new plants, many being his own discoveries on field work throughout Western Australia.

Cost: \$10 per person

Bookings are essential on 9431 8455

Please RSVP by Wednesday 22 July 2009

Please join us for refreshments after the lecture

With special thanks to our exhibition partners

www.museum.wa.gov.au

WA Museum – Maritime
NWS Shipping Theatre
Victoria Quay, Fremantle



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