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Media Release – www.recherchebay.org

On the 250th anniversary of French botanist Labillardiere's Birth, the Recherche Bay Protection Group calls on the State and Federal governments to bring to a halt plans to log the north – east peninsula of Recherche Bay.

The Recherche Bay Protection group today commemorated the life and legacy of French botanist Labillardiere on his 250th birthday. After celebrating the life and work of Labillardiere under a towering Tasmanian bluegum, the group have invited the State and Federal Government to honour Labillardiere by intervening in plans to log Recherche bay.

Recherche Bay was the type locality on the North East Peninsula of Tasmania where Jacques-Julian Houtou de Labillardiere collected most of his specimens with the 1792-1793 d'Entrecasteaux expedition. It was at Recherche Bay that he identified and named *Eucalyptus globulus*, now the Tasmanian Flora Icon. Recherche Bay is an internationally renowned site of natural and cultural heritage and faces imminent threat of logging due to government inaction.

“It is a shame that we have come together to commemorate the life and legacy of Labillardiere knowing that destruction is awaiting the forest and landscape where he undertook his scientific research” said Recherche Bay Protection Group spokesperson Wren Fraser Cameron.

“We should uphold Labillardiere's legacy and ensure Recherche Bay is protected. This area of forest has been listed as a National Heritage Site and requires special management and protection. Logging is incompatible with this.” Continued Ms Fraser Cameron.

“The Regional Forest Agreement has failed to protect the important values of the site by not including the French history of the d'Entrecasteaux expedition associated with the site. The Forest Practices Plan for the Vernon forest should be declared null and void on the basis of the inadequacies in the current RFA” said Ms Fraser Cameron.

The Recherche Bay Protection Group are holding a rally on Saturday November 5th on Parliament House Lawns from 11.30 am to call on the State Government and Minister for Environment and Heritage Judy Jackson to overturn the license for the logging road across the Southport Lagoon Conservation Area, to buy the Vernon land, to compensate the Vernon Brothers for not logging their land and for all stakeholders to come to the table to draft a Management Plan for the National Heritage listed site.