

EMBASSY OF FRANCE
RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE FRENCH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH,
ANTARCTICA AND PACIFIC NAVIGATING FROM HERITAGE TO
CLIMATE RESILIENCE
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
L'ASTROLABE, MACQUARIE WHARF 4, THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2026

Good evening, everyone. Thank you, Your Excellency, Ambassador Imbert, for your invitation and thank you also Commander Collin, for your welcome and for asking us to be part of your celebrations of our enduring and deep French Australian connection.

May I acknowledge the Muwinina people. I too acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

We are a centre of excellence in Antarctic science and governance. We also continue to be firmly anchored in our strong France-Australia Antarctic partnership. We are proud that the City of Hobart is one of the five Antarctic gateway cities and global Antarctic hubs.

Tasmania has a historical connection with France through the voyages of navigator Bruny D'Entrecasteaux, who searched for the missing French explorer La Perouse in our seas in the 1790s. The expedition landed at Recherche Bay and planted a vegetable and herb garden. Government House Tasmania's French Garden, named LaHaye Garden after the appointed French Gardener on the expeditions, re-imagines the original garden at Recherche Bay and commemorates the French explorers.

This reception marks not only *L'Astrolabe's* final Antarctic rotation of the season, but also our French Australian heritage in Antarctic cooperation. It is also an important opportunity to recognise the 35th anniversary of the Madrid Protocol on environmental protection¹. Our countries continue to

¹ [FAR in the Southern Connections: Antarctica and Pacific, navigating from heritage to climate resilience | AFRAN](#)

be connected through science and governance across the Southern Oceans and across the Pacific. We remain committed to advancing sustainable and cooperative responses to climate challenges.

This gathering also reminds us of our shared history in Antarctica, in exploration, partnership, and stewardship and our commitment to science and cooperation.

Thank you all.