



• James Parbery with his 'flag for all' design aboard the Bounty last week.

## Flag captures essence of our nation: designer

By **STUART CARLESS**

THE Bounty replica may be a reminder of our colonial past, but crew member James Parbery has his eyes fixed firmly on the future.

Mr Parbery, who lives in Sydney, has designed a new Australian flag which he believes "captures the essence of what is good about our country".

When the Bounty arrived in Twofold Bay last week after taking a battering in storms off Gabo Island, his 'flag for all' was flying from the fore mast.

Mr Parbery described himself as an admirer of the current flag, but said a change was inevitable heading into the 21st century.

And if that change was going to occur, Mr Parbery said he wanted to ensure that our new flag was attractive and had links to the past.

Mr Parbery, who has family in the Bega Valley, first came up with the idea to design a new Australia flag after sailing to England in the old Danish sailing ship,

'Soren Larsen'.

During the voyage, he had been asked by the captain to design a new house flag for the ship, which was stitched up from a couple of old signal flags and hoisted before the Soren Larsen rounded Cape Horn.

Returning home after a two year absence, Mr Parbery started work on his design, finding inspiration in an early Australian flag from the 1830s as well as the current national flag.

He worked on the design for several months, making major changes, before coming up with the current 'flag for all' design which has been well received around the world.

Mr Parbery's design shows a golden sun and the Southern Cross on a field of blue.

He said the round disc at the heart of the flag was also seen on the Aboriginal flag, where it represented "the life-giving force that unites both the land and the people".

Radiating from the disc on

Mr Parbery's design are 16 points of the compass, representing Australia's seafaring heritage.

He said the Southern Cross provided a link with early Australian flags as well as our current flag.

"The golden sun is the warmth of the people and climate; life, energy, optimism and growth," Mr Parbery said.

"The blue field represents the free spirit of our people, clear skies above, and the sea surrounding our country.

"All elements are combined as one but not bound, inspiring unity and order while reminding us of our wide open spaces and freedom.

"Warm and cool colours and a balanced composition portray beauty, harmony, strength, stability and peace.

"People can learn to understand the symbolism or simply take it at face value," Mr Parbery said.

"In the end, it's important that we have a beautiful flag which makes us feel good when we see it".



## Heading south

THE Bounty replica was on its way to Melbourne for the filming of a television mini-series when it hit rough weather near Gabo Island last week.

The vessel arrived in Twofold Bay in the early hours of Thursday morning and left on Friday following an improvement in the weather.

Ironically, as part of its role in the Channel 9 production of 'Moby Dick', the Bounty will be filmed encountering stormy weather in Bass Strait.

The vessel will return to Sydney later this month to resume its daily schedule of cruises on Sydney Harbour.

Captain of the Bounty, Stephen Grono (ABOVE), said he was hoping to make another stop in Eden on the way home.