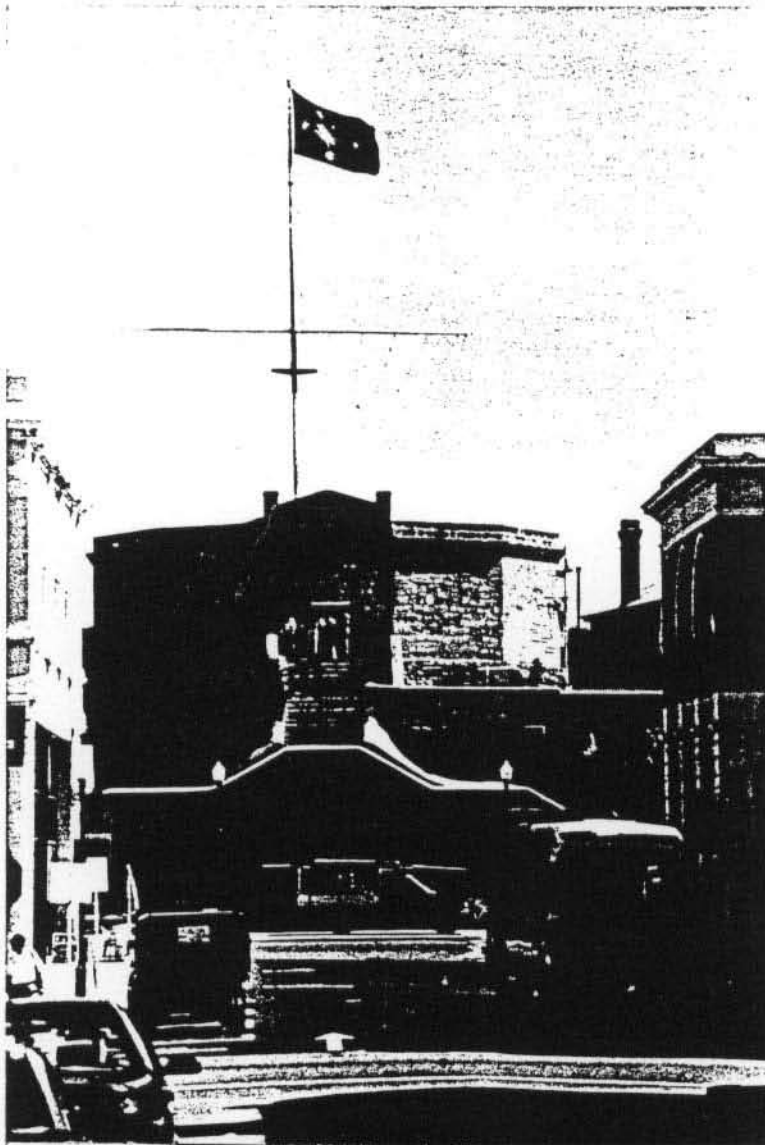


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*Fremantle's very own independent newspaper
Everybody reads the Herald*



New flag over Freo

IF you've walked up High Street towards the Round House in the past few days you may have noticed something.

The Round House flagpole for instance.

Local rigger Doug Watson (above) risked life and limb in the early hours of last Tuesday morning to climb the clifftop pole with what he hopes might become the new Aussie flag.

Designed by fellow rigger and Sydney artist James Parbery, the bright design sports a golden sun and Southern Cross on a blue field.

Speaking from Sydney, James said he was passionate about the country having a good looking flag.

Having pumped several thousand dollars into his design idea, James said it had been greeted warmly by those who had seen it so far.

With Australia's flag history coming from naval traditions, it was this association which initially drew Doug and James together.

Doug assisted in the rigging of the Endeavour Replica and took part in sea trials in 1994, while James Parbery arrived in Fremantle about the Bounty with the First Fleet Re-enactment in 1987.

The two met aboard Bounty at Sydney Cove last year and discussed plans for launching the flag, before Doug, 24, headed back to Perth.

And as for how long the flag might stay there? Who knows, said Doug.

"It's been without a flag for some time but I don't know how many people have noticed or what they think of it," said Doug.