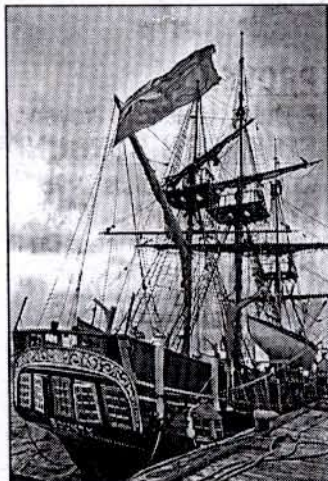




Sea change: James Parbery hoists his alternative Australian flag. Pictures: VIRGINIA VLATKO-RULO

Mutiny ship becomes a whale hunter



The Bounty: moored at Williamstown.

THE *Bounty* has been involved in mutinies, First Fleet landings, battled storms, even indulged in pleasure cruises on Sydney Harbor.

Now it is preparing to take on a giant white whale.

The majestic ocean-going ship was docked at Williamstown yesterday undergoing minor alterations for its part in the Channel Nine mini-series *Moby Dick*, being filmed at Point Cook.

The ship will pose as the whaling boat *Pequod* in the production which stars *Star Trek* hero Patrick Stewart, and Australian actors Bill Hunter and Bruce Spence.

Also making a cameo appearance in the television version of the Herman Melville

By FIONA BYRNE

epic, will be Gregory Peck who starred in the 1956 film of the novel.

The *Bounty* will be in Melbourne for about 10 days, filming storm sequences in Bass Strait and Port Phillip Bay.

Crew member James Parbery said the crew was hoping to get a good storm.

"We hit 50 knot wind in Bass Strait on the way down from Sydney. We ended up sideways and had to stop," he said.

The *Bounty*, named after the ship captained by William Bligh and involved in the famous 1779 mutiny, was built in New Zealand in 1979 and

used in the film of the same name starring Mel Gibson.

In 1988 it sailed from England to Australia as part of the bicentenary re-enactment of the landing of the First Fleet.

In 1989 it sailed to Tahiti to take part in the bicentenary of the mutiny.

The ship was last in Melbourne in March 1988.

The *Bounty* is based in Sydney where it gives pleasure cruises.

When in Sydney it flies a distinctive alternative Australian flag designed by Mr Parbery.

The blue flag is made up of a golden sun with flares representing the 16 points of the compass. Surrounding the sun is the Southern Cross.