THE TALK OF CANBERRA
Gang-gang

WITH
gang-gang
Ph: 6280 2

Googong goes it bottle and tongs

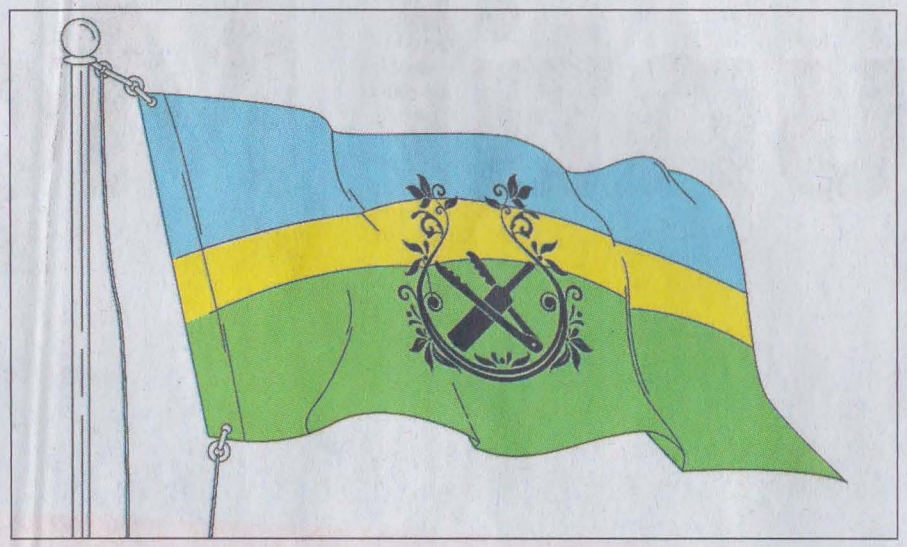
ne had sensed that the developers and pioneering citizens of the environmentally upmarket and socially avant-ownship of Googong were just a g and had tickets on themselves. it be worse than we thought? May planning to secede from the nwealth of Australia?

ise this spectre because we have aked the design of a Googongian iably reported to be already flying nast at Googong) and the words of ongian anthem that for all we nay already be being sung by gians every morning.

pretty flag (in colour reminiscent il's) bears a design of a crossed ottle and barbecue tongs, those d symbols of the Googongian

nthem is really rather clever and tuneful as Australia's dirge. It is e nobly bouncy melody of *Along d To Gundagai* (done beautiful ast week by the band of the Royal College at the centenary founda-ne ceremony at Federation Mall). at's more, for this columnist is vingly pedantic about such things, etting that scans perfectly, with nd melody aligning snugly. Those who know the famous melody will sing this abridged version of it, together, massed choir of readers!

e glad
om sad
not smug ...
just a tad.



SPIRIT: Googong flags its colours, left. A Chorus of Women performed in Parliament House foyer on Tuesday. "It would never happen in the British Parliament," said an English tourist.

Because we're proud
Googongians.
We recycle water
So our gardens stay green.
We've got a special fondness
For barbecue cuisine.
Don't you fret,
There's high speed net,
The tech's as good
As it can get,
For every proud Googongian.
Lots of trees
Country breeze
Sit on the porch with wine
and cheese
When you're a proud
Googongian.
Yes we could,
Yes we should,
Settle in
And stay for good
Now we are proud Googongians.

While on the subject of things sung with feeling, a member of A Chorus of Women, presenters of the concert given in the marble foyer of Parliament House on Tuesday and reported in Wednesday's column, tells us this story. We so seldom think kind thoughts of our Parliament (a bitter institution these days) that this story may warm Australian giblets a little.

"After Tuesday's 'Open the Doors of the Chambers' concert I heard a story from two people in our audience who don't know each other.

"They gave me an identical report about an English visitor to the Parliament who just happened to be there when the Chorus of Women began singing. This woman was reportedly full of amazement and praise for Australian democracy after hearing that we had been given an anniversary concert in the Parliament when we had begun in such a radical way with (in 2003) a lament for the Iraqi people in the public foyer, just as our prime minister [John Howard] was in the House of Reps chamber announcing that we were going to war against Iraq.

"Apparently the visitor went to the information desk in the foyer for six more copies of our program to take back to the UK because she said they wouldn't believe her back home.

" 'It would never happen in the British Parliament,' she said."