

A song for Melburnians new and old

By **JASON DOWLING**
CITY EDITOR

MELBOURNE has trams, the MCG, a flag and now it has a song.

No, it's not Paul Kelly's *Leaps and Bounds*, nor the Melbourne Football Club's *It's a Grand Old Flag* — Melbourne's song is simply called *Melbourne Day*.

The new song was commissioned by Melbourne City Council to help celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Enterprize landing on the banks of the Yarra in 1835.

Primary school children will dance and sing the new song at the city's official 175th birthday celebrations on Monday.

The song strikes a progressive note with recognition of the area's first inhabitants and more recent arrivals.

It was written by Mark Puddy from education provider Austra-

lian Arts Alive.

Puddy, who has worked with the Australian Girls Choir for 16 years, said he wanted the song to reflect Melbourne's history.

"It had to be a school song as well. I knew it was going to be performed by school-aged kids," he said.

"It had to be short and snappy, [one] that people could latch their teeth into as well."

He said he wanted the song to celebrate Melbourne's migrant and indigenous past. "It would have been interesting comparing how this would have been celebrated a few years ago, I think, because I don't think there would have been that inclusiveness," he said.

"If you go back to the bicentenary celebrations . . . I think we have come a long way since

then."

Lord mayor Robert Doyle said Melbourne should celebrate its migrant history.

"What has made Melbourne great is migration from different countries — that's what made us what we are," he said. The federal debate about immigration was disappointing, he said.

Cr Doyle said that while he did not expect the song to become the city's lasting anthem, it would help connect primary school children — particularly those newly arrived from overseas — with Melbourne's history.

On Monday, the lord mayor will raise the Melbourne flag and indigenous elders will perform a traditional welcome ceremony.



MELBOURNE DAY

**Under blue skies,
Southern Blue skies,
Melburnians always meet
together.**

**Under grey skies,
Southern Grey skies,
Melburnians meet in any
weather.**

**The Wurundjeri,
And the Boonerwung,
People of the Kulin Nation.
We've had settlers here,
Welcomed migrants here,
People from all destinations.
More people who care!
More people who come
to share this day!**