

# Southern Endeavour

By Pete Townend



**A month ago James, who produces this magazine, asked me to take Southern Endeavour, the new double sea kayak from Q Kayaks, for an editorial trial.**

I had planned to do this one Saturday while running a leader development day at Orewa and Okura for the Manukau team. We had way too much fun surfing so missed the opportunity. However my neighbour was about to paddle in two sea kayaks; with three in the family, one was going to watch, so I offered them the Southern Endeavour. A few hours later they returned the kayak from its first editorial trial with many thanks for a great time and the yummiest Apple Pie.

I got around to the 'official trial' on a sunny morning the day before taking the family to Australia for a three week holiday. My second daughter Shae and I loaded Southern Endeavour on our Canoe & Kayak wheels and launched at 7.30 am for a 45 minute play.

Southern Endeavour feels solid; its weight is ok and wheeling 200 m to

the water and back was no effort. Two of its three hatches have neoprene and hard covers. The foremost hatch has a robust clip down cover. The Rudder system is simple, functional and turns the kayak well. Happily the up and downhaul does not have a lock down cleat. I welcome this as uphaul lines frustratingly, can get stuck in it. However, you could add this cleat if expecting to reach high speeds in ocean swells which cause the rudder to lift. The seats and cockpits are the standard Q Kayaks design, continually updated over the years. They are very comfortable and paddler friendly.

The Southern Endeavour is stable and easy to paddle. We had all the normal day trip safety gear on board. With Shae, aged 10 in front and a 100 kg dad behind, it felt great.

Between the mangroves steering was easy with and without the rudder. The cockpits are well spaced so paddles never clashed.

We had a bit too much fun, missed the family trip to school and as

## Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers N.Z. Inc. (KASK)

Annual subscription is \$35.00.

**Kask**  
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### KASK is a network of sea kayakers throughout New Zealand

KASK publishes a 200 page sea kayaking handbook which is free to new members: the handbook contains all you need to know about sea kayaking: techniques and skills, resources, equipment, places to go etc.

KASK publishes a bi-monthly newsletter containing trip reports, events, book reviews, technique/equipment reviews and a 'bugger' file. KASK holds national sea kayaking forums.



usual Mum came to the rescue.

An excellent father and daughter paddle in a great kayak, crystal clear water, fish splashing, kowhai flowering, tuis and bell birds singing. Why are we holidaying in Australia?

If you would like a paddle in this great kayak give your Canoe & Kayak Centre a call to arrange a demo for you.

P.S Shae's birthday treat this year is a weekend exploring the Hauraki Gulf with Dad in a double Sea Kayak. The Southern Endeavour will be an excellent choice for the trip.

*Below: Shae has plenty of room to swing her paddle.*



*Above: The Southern Endeavour in Taupo. Photo courtesy of Q Kayaks.*



**Specifications:**

Length 5.6 m, Width: 800 mm, Weight: 46 kg

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For all the kayak specs. and stockists, visit [www.q-kayaks.co.nz](http://www.q-kayaks.co.nz) or phone 06 326 8667  
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