



20 April 2011

Captain Mark E. Kelly
Commander, Space Shuttle Endeavour
National Aeronautics & Space
Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas 77058
USA

Dear Captain Kelly,

As I am writing this I am at sea off the eastern seaboard of Australia on board the replica HM Bark *Endeavour* looking up at the night sky and thinking of the incredible voyage you are about to make.

It was with great delight that I heard the final flight for the Space Shuttle Endeavour would coincide with our own major voyage around Australia, and more so that your voyage departure date is exactly 241 years to the day when Cook first made landfall in Australia in Botany Bay while commanding the original HM Bark *Endeavour*.

It's true our two vessels share more than just a name. Our respective *Endeavours* also represent opportunities for learning and furthering our understanding of the future and the past. Looking forward to how we can interact and respond in space to looking back at past explorers and understanding how it is we came to be.

The Space Shuttle Endeavour has certainly embodied the same spirit of exploration, adventure and perseverance as the original *Endeavour*. I can only imagine what it would have been like for James Cook and his crew of 94 to sail off in to the unknown, beyond the limits of their charts and knowledge, relying on their small Whitby collier *Endeavour* to get them home. And yet for you and your crew, and all the past Space Shuttle Endeavour crews, this has been something you have intimately experienced.

When talking about Cook and his *Endeavour*, we often liken his 1768-71 voyage of discovery to a voyage into space. While today the majority of the world's surface has been explored and duly chartered and recorded, two centuries ago we were still discovering the limits of our world.

And now you and your colleagues are the great explorers of the 21st century, exchanging vast oceans for outer space and continuing to make new discoveries and extend our knowledge.



2 Murray Street Sydney NSW 2000 Tel 1800 720 577 + 61 2 9298 3777

Email endeavour@anmm.gov.au www.endeavourvoyages.com.au

ABN 35 023 590 988



On our voyage around Australia we're continuing the *Endeavour* tradition of scientific discovery. We have partnered with the Bureau of Meteorology to collect and report back on important weather and marine observations over the 13-month voyage, which will then be used to inform long-term climate profiles and help detect global climate change.

We are also sailing with a message of friendship, working with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to promote recognition and understanding of our shared history. On behalf of the director of the Australian National Maritime Museum and the crew of the replica HM Bark *Endeavour*, we extend to you this message of friendship and understanding.

To quote English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge from his *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*... "*The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, The furrow followed free. We were the first that ever burst Into that silent sea.*" We wish you and your crew safe passage for your final flight of the spacecraft *Endeavour* into your own 'silent sea'.

Kind regards,

Captain Ross Mattson,
Master, HM Bark *Endeavour*



2 Murray Street Sydney NSW 2000 Tel 1800 720 577 + 61 2 9298 3777

Email endeavour@anmm.gov.au www.endeavourvoyages.com.au

ABN 35 023 590 988