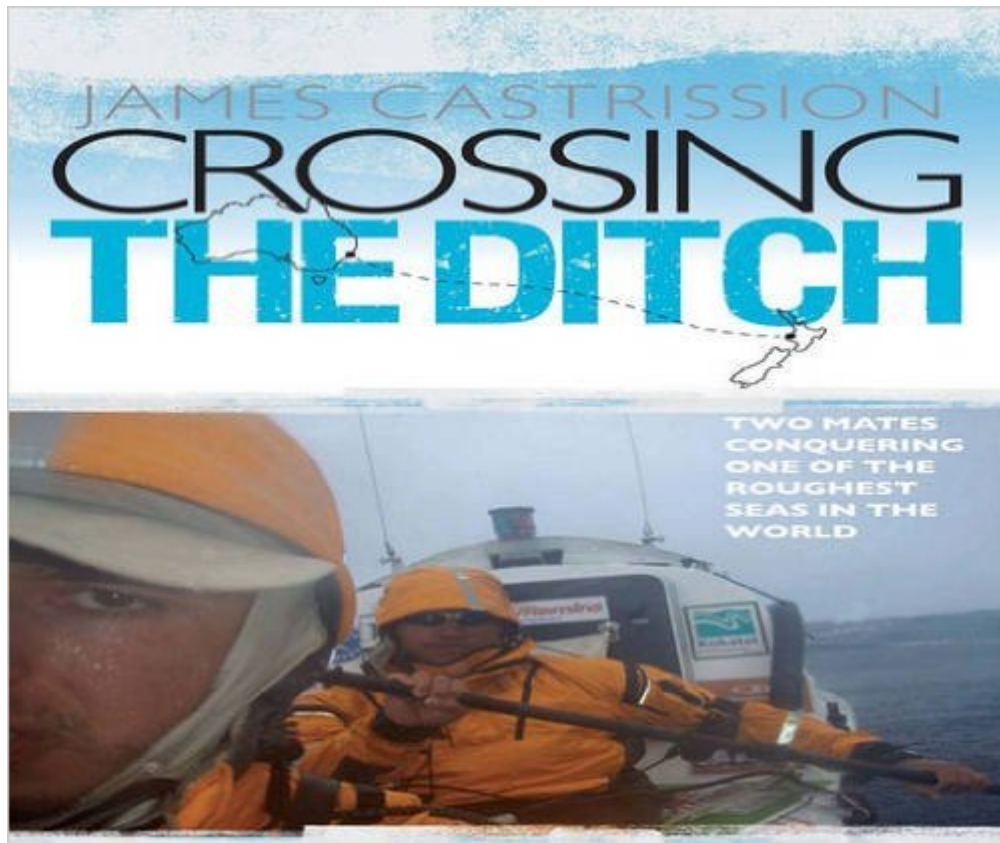


The book was found

# Crossing The Ditch



## Synopsis

Our journey across the Tasman was frightening at times. Sharks tearing at our hull 30-foot waves crashing over our kayak and the possibility that the stern of the boat might be ripped away; these were all very real fears. Who were we to take on the Tasman Sea? But the little kid inside me screamed Go on mate give it a go.' - James Castrission With more than two thousand kilometres of treacherous seas and dangerously unpredictable weather and currents not to mention the ever-present threat of sharks it was little wonder no one had ever successfully crossed the Tasman by kayak. Australian adventurer Andrew McAuley had come close just months earlier - tragically though not near enough to save his life. But two young Sydneysiders James Castrission and Justin Jones reached the sand at New Plymouth - and a place in history - on 13 January 2008 62 days after they'd set off from Forster on the mid-north coast of New South Wales. In the process they overcame a litany of difficulties including dwindling food supplies a string of technical problems and two close encounters with sharks as well as one demoralising 14-day period in which - caught in a whirlpool - they found themselves being dragged back to Australia. When they arrived in New Zealand they were sunburnt bearded underweight physically and mentally wasted ...and most of all happy to be alive.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This honest account of two Sydney-raised friends who, bored with the corporate life mapped out for them, decide to take on a challenge never before achieved - a kayak crossing from Australia to New

Zealand. Making the story more poignant is the tragic death of experienced sea kayaker Andrew McCauley attempting the same feat a few months before Cas and Jonesy made their successful attempt. The book details the enormous amount of preparation work, risk management, and personal training that went into the attempt. Underpinning the story are the dynamics of the two friends' friendship - at times strained, but when it counts, rock solid. In the end the story is about friendship, life and challenging yourself, and written in style laced with humour and frank personal insight. It was difficult to put down!

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