



CROSSING BRIDGES

**JAMES BRODIE
SPEAKER'S INFO PACK**

ABOUT JAMES

James Brodie is a radio host, songwriter, mental health advocate, and former student politician born in May 1996 from Te Aroha, New Zealand.

After a quiet (but entertaining) childhood in Te Aroha acting on stage at the Future Te Aroha Centre, James first began struggling with his mental health at 12 years old (despite having Autism and ADHD), starting with small things at first and eventually hitting breaking point at age 14 with self-attacking, anxiety, and multiple suicide attempts. After seeking help at age 15, James began advocating for mental health awareness in his community on a small grassroots scale, which led to a substantial involvement in New Zealand's student voice movement from 2016-2022. Through this work, James was advocating for mental health in the tertiary sector while encouraging engagement and communication among students around New Zealand.

During this time, James was also a musician- playing as part of independent music projects and collectives from 2013-2020 before starting the process of creating his first album as a solo artist under the name "SKYKID", written about the re-emergence of his mental health struggles across the early 2020's and his subsequent recovery. The album was released in September 2024- 3 months after surviving a near-deadly car crash in Auckland, New Zealand.

Having overcome these battles, James now spends his life to speaking hope and creating change in the area of mental health by sharing his story and music. James's unique experiences and hopeful message have now been heard at music festivals, parliament, speaking engagements, TED talks, in front of world leaders, and other smaller stages in between over the course of 14 years, with no sign of slowing down anytime soon.

James is currently finishing his 2nd album as SKYKID (set for release in 2026) and is the host of a weekly radio show on GLA Radio called SkyKid's Cabin, a program aimed at kids and young families that talks about hard things while listening to a wide variety of music. He continues to advocate for mental health awareness around New Zealand while sharing his stories and music in a way only he can. Through melody, conversation, chaos, and hope.



WHAT IS CROSSING BRIDGES?

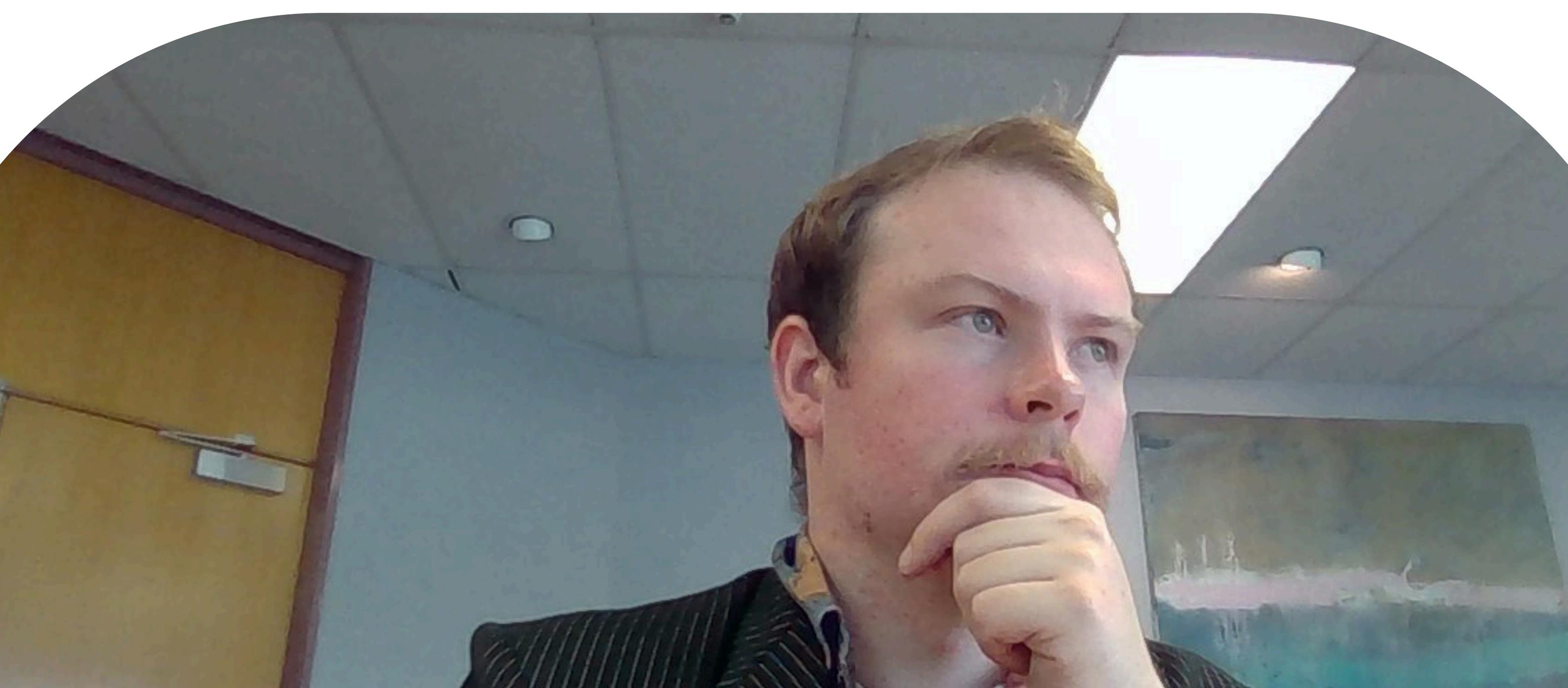
Crossing Bridges is a in-depth motivational talk presented by James Brodie that shares an honest no-holds-barred look at his journey with mental health and music along with the strategies and lessons he learned along the way to cross his own bridge to arrive at a place of hope and joy through all seasons of life.

With a gentle no-nonsense approach, James walks you through five different chapters of his life- Recovery, Arcadium, Surrender, Revival, and Presence. Each season has its own blend of unique life events, struggles, triumphs, and flickers of hope scattered in between. None of these seasons are the same and are equally filled with joy and heartbreak but the common secret to surviving each season is simple- hope. Something that is all around you but hard to find when you're navigating a storm without a compass or walking thorough darkness without stars.

As you visit in each of the five seasons, James walks you through the tools that he used to survive the many storms that he has had to navigate in his own life and how you can apply them into your own everyday life using simplified techniques that all works of life can understand and implement. From creative strategy and honest self-care techniques to coping mechanisms for chronic anxiety and executive mindset tricks everyone can benefit from James's simple but effective toolbox that anyone can implement and improve their outlook on life.

By the end of this talk, you will have been on the journey with James throughout his struggles and triumphs as he shares his diary with your audience and equips you with the skills to navigate life's storms and find hope within every season of life that you encounter. Whether you're a teenage trying to figure out how the world works to the executive chairman who thinks he's seen it all; you will walk away from James's talk a different person than when you arrived prepared to walk in a forward direction.

This motivational talk is recommended for ages 12 and up with a school's variation of this talk also available.



NOTABLE LIFE EVENTS:

2010: James suffers from a mental breakdown at age 14 after years of struggles and mental health battles.

2011: Begins undergoing substantial mental health treatment, James begins advocacy work for mental health awareness in his local area and speaking to council about local causes.

2012: Begins Mental Health Advocacy, writes poetry book *Welcome To My World*

2013: Mental Health Advocacy continues, James gives first professional speech in front of Sir John Key (former PM of New Zealand), high school band Scorpion release only project.

2014: First IvyBlue Project Released, graduates Te Aroha College, continues advocacy work through music, live events, and supporting grassroots initiatives.

2016: Joins SAWIT Executive Board as Engagement Officer. Begins work on IvyBlue's 2nd project. The Passengers release only EP.

2017: First International Tour with IvyBlue. 17 European Shows in 21 Days. IvyBlue's 2nd project released

2018: Becomes Vice Executive Director of SAWIT Incorporated

2019: Final IvyBlue Tour in New Zealand, collaborations with other musos

2020: Loses his Dad to cancer, Becomes President and CEO of SAWIT, joins National Response to COVID-19 specializing in student voice and mental health, begins writing material for his first ever solo album. IvyBlue release final project together before quietly walking away.

2022: Retires from student politics, gives first TED Talk in Auckland

2024: Release of 1st SKYKID album 'Heart', Short Festival Tour of NZ, Survives Near Fatal Car Crash at Auckland Airport

2025: Completes neurological and physical recovery, launches "Skykid's Cabin" on GLA Radio

2026: 2nd SKYKID Album Release, return to speaking and mental health advocacy, book release in late 2026, return to live shows.



WHAT IS JAMES AVAILABLE FOR?

Conferences:

Have a conference that needs an element of hope? James can deliver in spades. With his expertise in mental health and entertainment James's Crossing Bridges talk is the perfect uplifting element your conference or event is looking for

School Talks:

Have James come to your school to deliver his Crossing Bridges talk. Raw and to the point while remaining friendly for the schoolyards, this talk will move people beyond words.

Corporate Engagements:

Need a keynote speaker for your next corporate event? Or another speaker on your lineup for your next event? James's voice has you covered with his expertise and experience adapted for your stage.

Interviews and Podcasts:

Want James to sit down for a chat for your podcast, media, or publication? James is happy to sit down and chat about his story and expertise with you for your audience.

Churches and Life Groups:

Need an inspiring testimony for your congregation or church group? James is ready to serve and share his testimony in your church or group with no holds barred but faith at the forefront of his heart.

Workshops and Small Sessions:

A great compliment to a larger talk and on its own, James goes into deep detail about his journey and the lessons learned on the way, guided by the needs of the client and the conversation had on the day.

Mentoring Sessions:

Fully customized to your needs, James guides you through life lessons that he's learned over the years and how you can apply them to your own story.







BOOKINGS + INQUIRIES:

To book James for a talk, or request more information, please contact James using the details below:

James Brodie
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