

Best mates Tim Charody (at left), 26, and Tim Doyle, 25, grew up together on Sydney's North Shore. Now, "The Two Tims" – or Chazza and Dazza, as they call each other – criss-cross the continent as presenters on an ABC-TV travel show.

2 of US

Tim Charody
& Tim Doyle



Tim C: Tim and I have been mates since we were nine years old. We both went to Northbridge Sailing School and grew up mucking about in [Sydney's] Middle Harbour. While our friends were playing video games, we were bush-bashing and camping and going on adventures. Although we went to the same school, we didn't really hang out, but as soon as we got outside the school grounds, we were best mates.

Tim and I are very different. I have a twin sister and have always had someone to muck up with, whereas Tim is an only child and never got into any trouble. Tim was a prefect and I was *always* in detention. I resented all the rules, but Tim liked the discipline. I have been known to lead Tim astray. When I was the ripe old age of 16 we convinced Tim's mum to lend us her old Subaru for a few weeks to go up the coast to Forster in the school holidays. We were in year 11; Tim was 17 and on his P plates. We got to Forster and thought, "Let's keep going north." We ended up in Byron Bay.

When school finished, Tim and I flew to Thailand and then travelled through Asia, Europe and South America. I was 18, Tim was 19. Returning to Australia [in 2003] was a reality check. We both went to uni. I studied broadcast journalism – I wanted to be a war correspondent – and Timbo studied teaching: drama and geography. Six months after I graduated [late 2006], I went and spent all my money on a video camera. I phoned Tim and said, "Mate. Let's go and make travel

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drove around Sydney filming bogus pieces. We filmed a segment in Chinatown and pretended we were in Asia; we jumped off Jump Rock [near Manly] and did a little surfing piece ... We threw something together in an hour and had it at Greg's place by the afternoon. We scored the *Travel Oz* gig in July 2007. Two weeks later, we were filming in the Top End eating freshly cooked turtle and kangaroo tail at the Barunga Sports and Culture Festival.

The most challenging thing about being with Tim 24/7 is dealing with the ups and downs. You can't always be up. We both have personal issues and girl problems and we often have to give each other a bit of space and support.

What annoys me most about Tim is that he is the slowest driver on planet Earth. He drives slower than my grandma! He's also ridiculously neat. I live with two

mates and Tim lives with his girlfriend. While Tim is scrubbing his bathroom with Domestos, I'm in my flat shooting cockroaches with rubber bands. When we share a hotel room, I chuck my bag on the floor and chill out, while he stands there, unpacking, finding hooks to hang up his stuff and putting everything in little places.

I call Tim Dazza; he calls me Chazza. He is my brother from another mother. He pushes me along and he picks me up. I do have a spiritual connection with Tim. You can't call someone a true friend until you've had them cry on your shoulder. There is nothing good or bad I've done that he doesn't know about.

Tim D: Most blokes go to the footy together; Tim and I go on adventures. Tim's brain complements mine. What he brings to this [professional] partnership is that he is not afraid to ask the tough questions when he is talking to producers and he steers things in the direction we want to go. I'm a chilled-out kind of guy and I'm happy to leave that stuff to him. I do all the tax and follow up on invoices and write the agendas. That is why we work so well together. We don't step on each other's toes. Man, it'd be a tragedy if we were too similar; imagine if we were *both* neat freaks?

I do have a wild side and that comes out when we are on the road. Tim and I do take risks, but we also run a business and have a job to do. It's a fantastic job, but it's also not all that it seems on paper. We earn just enough to survive. What I enjoy is trying to nut out a path that will let us succeed in this career. Tim and I work well together because we understand each other's needs; this comes from knowing each other for 16 years. We don't compete with each other for camera time, but we do compete on stupid challenges, like who can eat the weirdest things. We've eaten fried grasshoppers and scorpions.

Tim does corrupt me; he always has. My parents and girlfriend think so. Right from the start my parents said that I shouldn't be doing this, and that it's "a little kid's dream". But I say we'd be silly not to pursue this. My parents definitely want me to do something that is more secure. I do like structure, but the reason this is working is because Tim has just picked it up and we've run with it. I love travelling and I get my kicks from being free to do all these adventures with my best mate.

It's great to know someone has your back when you're on the road. We've been in some pretty hairy situations: we've hit a roo and written off a \$160,000 work van in outback NSW; driven a rally car around Central Queensland; canoed up the Sepik River [in New Guinea]; skydived in Argentina; surfed one of the longest left-hand breaks in the world [in Peru] and bungee-jumped, jet-skied and canoed all in one day. Oh yeah, and we've also been chased by a bunch of Brazilians wielding machetes. We do have to look out for each other. I once got really sick on this remote island in Thailand and Tim had to get me to the mainland. It was the last boat for the day and I was spewing everywhere. That's just the nature of our friendship; we are there for each other.

We don't have blow-ups too often, but we do confide in each other a lot. He knows the feelings I have for my girlfriend and we do talk about home a lot when we are away. But we also take the piss out of each other. He might rubbish my driving, but at least I have a good sense of direction! Tim gets lost at the drop of a hat.

I do think more about the bigger picture than Tim – about family and kids and where I'll be in 30 years' time. He wouldn't mind just travelling forever. But the difference is that Tim acts on his dreams, no matter how far-fetched they seem. I suppose if I didn't have Tim, maybe my parents and their pragmatic approach would have taken over. I'd say, "If they say it's not going to work, then it won't." But, when Tim says to me, "We can definitely keep doing this", it makes me want to match that.

Tim has been beside me for all the most momentous occasions of my life. I can't imagine my life without him ... but I do know it would be less of an adventure. **GW**