The *Tweed* was a steel single screw steamer of 151 tons. She was 128.2 foot long, 22.7 foot wide and had a 8.9 foot draft. The vessel was built by Wood, Skinner and Co. at Newcastle on Tyne, England in 1884. She was built specially for the shallow waters of the Tweed River and named after the river.

The *Tweed* was owned by the G W Nicoll Line, one of the first line of steamships to trade on the Tweed.

The *Tweed* carried both cargo and passengers between Sydney and the Tweed, but unfortunately she was wrecked within three years of arriving on the Tweed. She went ashore at the entrance to the Tweed River on 19 April 1888 and was lost after numerous attempts to refloat her failed. The *Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser* lamented the loss, stating "the general feeling of regret at the loss of such a fine boat was certainly not diminished by the knowledge that we shall all be put to great inconvenience and probably suffer…as we have depended almost exclusively on the *Tweed* for the supply of our general requirements…". The engine from the *Tweed* was salvaged and was subsequently used in a second *Tweed*.

This model of the *Tweed* is a half-hull model, mounted on glass with a mirror backing. The model was built by the ship builders, and presented to the new owner as a gift. Half-hull models are designed to be mounted on the wall, hence the inclusion of one side of the ship only. This model would have been proudly owned by G W Nicoll and was donated by his grandson, Graham Nicoll, in 2003.