

# ***GWENDOLINE***

The *Gwendoline* was a topsail schooner built in 1897 at Coopersnook, NSW. She was 84 tons, 86 feet long, 23.1 feet wide and had a 7.2 foot draft. The *Gwendoline* was owned by the Langley Brothers Company and made frequent trips between Sydney and the Tweed from 1897 to 1903. She carried coal and supplies for Tweed industry such as the Cudgen Sugar Mill, returning with sugar and timber. The Langley Brothers pioneered shipping trade between Sydney and the Tweed, operating sailing ships and steam ships from the late 1860s to 1925.

The launching of the *Gwendoline* was quite an occasion, with one newspaper reporting that, "The *Gwendoline* was christened by Mrs Langley in the orthodox manner....After being floated, the vessel was brought alongside the owner's wharf and boarded by a number of visitors from all parts of the district. Refreshments were provided and several toasts drank."<sup>1</sup> The *Gwendoline* was sold in 1903 for use in the Torres Strait pearling industry and had a long life before being wrecked on Forestier Reef, Western Australia, in 1924.

Whilst in service on the Tweed, the *Gwendoline* was captained for a short time by Peter Simonsen, who captained many vessels travelling between Sydney and the Tweed, as well as being skipper of the tug *Terranora* for nearly 30 years.

In his retirement, Mr Simonsen constructed this model of the *Gwendoline*, crafting her hull from red cedar. The model was later donated by Mr Simonsen's grand-daughter, Mrs Laurice Bolton.

1. Evening News (Sydney) 6 Sept 1897