

TERRANORA

The tug *Terranora* was a single screw steamer of 59 tons, 75 feet in length, 17.5 feet wide with a 6.5 foot draft. She was built in Sydney in 1896 by David Drake for Langley Brothers Co.

The *Terranora* operated at Tweed Heads for 35 years, guiding and towing ships across the treacherous Tweed Bar, and had many narrow escapes. Captain Peter Simonsen was in charge of the *Terranora* for nearly 30 years.

The *Terranora* and the *Tyalgum*'s fate seem to be intertwined; in 1931 both vessels were stranded on the sand bar at the mouth of the Tweed River. Queues of people lined the vantage points to see this unprecedented event of two ships being stranded at the same time. Both the *Tyalgum* and the *Terranora* were successfully refloated.

In 1933, the *Terranora* was taking soundings of the Tweed bar to locate a channel for the *Tyalgum* to leave port after being barbound inside the river for almost a week. The *Terranora* became stuck on the sand spit and in the attempt to pull her free, a hole was knocked in the boat and she began taking water. Half an hour later all attempts at rescue were abandoned and by the following day, the *Terranora* was totally wrecked. The *Tyalgum* was able to cross the bar the following day.

This model of the *Terranora* was constructed by local enthusiast, Bill Spencer, who made several models for the Lower Tweed River Historical Society (now the Tweed Heads Historical Society). The models are now part of the Tweed Regional Museum Collection.