

# ***TYALGUM***

The *Tyalgum* was a steel twin screw steamer built in Glasgow in 1925. She was 544 tons and 160 feet long, 34.7 feet wide and had an 8.5 foot draft. She was owned by the North Coast Steam Navigation Company and serviced the North Coast from 1925 to 1939.

On 25 August 1939, under the command of Captain W Tolmie, the *Tyalgum* ran aground near the entrance to the Tweed River whilst being towed across the bar. She was on a voyage from Sydney to Tweed Heads, carrying 190 tons of coal. Fourteen of the seventeen crew members were swung ashore in a bosun's chair that same day, with the remaining three managing to get to shore in the ship's boat.

All salvage attempts were finally abandoned on 6 September 1939, and the *Tyalgum* was subsequently sold as a wreck. The funnel, machinery and boiler were removed, however the boiler was too big to transport so stayed on the beach for several years. The old boiler became known as 'Duranbah Flats' by locals when well-known local identity Barney Currie set up residence in it and lived quite happily there for several years. The wreck became a favourite fishing spot and adventure playground for children, before finally disappearing under the waves in 1949, with only a small part of the ship being visible at low tide.

The *Tyalgum* was the last trading steamer to enter the Tweed River before the Pilot Service ceased in 1941.

The model of the *Tyalgum* 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 then became part of the Tweed Regional Museum Collection.