

FAMILY RE-UNITED AFTER 30 YEARS

Fresh timbers have already been laid at the Beattie Brothers' shipyards at Cockle Creek for the possible building of another Tuna fishing vessel.

The "Patricia Cam," which left the slips last month, has already been fitted with twin deisel engines in Sydney and will shortly be ready for the deep.

Beattie Brothers (six of them), have built many ships for the timber and fishing industry of this State, and are to be numbered among the pioneers of the industry.

In the hall of their home on Brisbane Water there are photos, drawings and oils of the ships which have plied up and down the coast for the past thirty years.

All have been built of local timber on the shores of Brisbane Water.

On the day of the launching of the "Patricia Cam" the six brothers met for the first time in 30 years.

Edward George, now past the 75th milestone, is an old shipwright, who was manager of Callan Brothers' shipyards for 40 years.

Angus McGregor, 73, lives at the family yards and it was he who launched the "Patricia Cam."

Walter William, 71, was his assistant.

Ernest Albert, 68, a retired shipwright, has had a colourful career. He spent many years building and handling dredges for the gold and tin fields of N.S.W.

Gordon Edgar, and Arnold Claude too, are shipwrights, whom everybody in Balmain and around the foreshores of Sydney Harbour have been well acquainted with for the past half a century.

The brothers did not let each other know that they would meet on the day of the launching of the "Patricia Cam," and when Edward arrived and passed the time of day with his brother, Angus McGregor, the latter "buzzed him off" with the remark, "I'm sorry old chap, but I am too busy to talk to anybody just now. See you later." He did not know that he was addressing his brother, whom he had not seen for over 30 years.

Later, when the ship had been launched and the banquet was on, the brothers met and chatted of old times.

They had much to discuss. The Beattie Brothers were the founders of the industry in the Brisbane Water district, their father having built the first yard, when Edward was a babe in arms.

Possibly we shall see a revival of the industry in the district, and we are fortunate in having such skilled