

The Bosun's Call

Vol 15 No 3

Each for All—All for Each

April 2010

AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL FOR KOREA RECEIVES ROYAL APPROVAL

On 12 February, the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, announced that Her Majesty the Queen has approved the official regulations and design for the award of the Australian General Service Medal for Korea.

"The establishment of this award is consistent with the Rudd Labor Government's election commitment to fully implement the recommendations of the Post-Armistice Korean Service Review," Dr Kelly said. "The Australian General Service Medal for Korea is being struck to recognise former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days participating in operations in South Korea. This includes any location within 161 kilometres seaward from the coast of South Korea during the post-armistice period from 28 July 1953 to 19 April 1956."

It is expected that the medal will be available for dispatch to some eligible recipients before ANZAC Day 2010.

Former Defence Force personnel who served in South Korea during the post-armistice period are encouraged to submit their application to the following address:

Directorate of Honours and Awards
Department of Defence
PO Box 7952
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

People who have previously applied for the award do not need to reapply but should contact the Directorate of Honours and Awards if their address details have changed since applying.

Further Information:

Please call the Directorate of Honours and Awards on 1800 111 321 (toll free within Australia) or +612 6266 1050 (from outside Australia), or visit <http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/>

Visual details of the Medal will not be available until after ANZAC Day



Events coming up
Sunday 28 March Fish 'n' Chips Canberra Yacht Club 1700
THURSDAY 1 April Monthly meeting at Kaleen Sports Club

Commencing at 1330



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia



Printed by The Sports Club Kaleen

Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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General Meeting Dates and Locations

1 Apr Kaleen Sports Club 1330
 6 May Manuka Services Club 1930
 3 Jun Manuka Services Club 1930
 1 Jul Manuka Services Club 1930
 5 Aug Kaleen Sports Club 1330

President's Note

We tested our sealegs at our March meeting on-board the MV Southern Cross. I am very grateful to Brian Marriott who came in from sick leave to supervise our use of the *Southern Cross*.

It has been a comparatively quiet month from the ACT Section's point of view but a lot of DVA type talk fests is going on in the veteran community. Unfortunately a lot of this activity is done with little notice, and consequently there is no way it can be put into the Bosun's Call to give members the opportunity to participate in these activities. It is therefore very important that the Secretary be kept up to date with any change in your email address. If you do not have one you may be able to give him an email address that is used by a person to whom you have regular access.

Read that as you like but you should get the gist of what I am writing about, irrespective of what you might think

Cheers

Peter Cooke-Russell

Committee meeting

Kaleen Sports Club

1 April 2010
 Commencing at 1130

2 Sep Manuka Services Club	1930
6 Oct <i>MV Southern Cross</i>	1930 Wed
4 Nov Kaleen Sports Club	1330
2 Dec Manuka Services Club	1830
2011	
3 Feb Manuka Services Club	1930
2 Mar <i>MV Southern Cross AGM</i>	1930 Wed

NAA ACT Section Event/Social Diary

28 Mar **Fish and Chips Evening** Canberra Yacht Club foreshore 1700
 1 April Lunch at Kaleen Sports Club 12 noon before the General meeting at 1.30 pm
25 Apr ANZAC Day March with post march social Session at East Lake Football Club
 30 May BBQ at Peter Burn's place
 3 Jun Wednesday Get Together with lunch if you wish at the Vikings Club Tuggeranong 11.00 am–2.00 pm
 21 Jul Wednesday Get together morning tea then lunch if you wish Lakes Golf Club Gungahlin 11.00 am–2.00 pm
 5 Aug Lunch at the Kaleen Sports Club 12 noon before the General meeting at 1.30 pm
7 Aug HMAS Canberra Memorial Service
 26 Sep Fish n Chips Grounds Canberra Yacht Club 5.00–7.00 pm approx BYO drinks or buy at CYC
7 Oct Naval Memorial Service
 21 Nov Sunday Christmas BBQ at Don & Bev's backyard 12.00–4.00 pm approx

Red Tape Cut for Veterans and ADF Personnel

The red tape facing Australia's most disabled ex-serving personnel accessing income support has been cut in new changes announced on 18 February by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin.

Minister Griffin said that from March 2010, veteran pensioners assessed as Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) would be exempt from Centrelink medical reviews to access a Disability Support Pension.

"Since coming to Government we have sought to reduce the barriers facing veterans and injured ex-serving personnel seeking compensation and income support," the Minister said. "We established an Interdepartmental Working Group to simplify the bureaucratic maze facing veterans and ex-serving personnel, making it easier for them to access their entitlements and streamlining arrangements across agencies.

"Today's announcement immediately assists around 1100 veterans on a Centrelink Disability Support Pension and has the potential to benefit many more into the future. Currently TPI pensioners undergo repeated Job Capacity Assessments to access and retain their Disability Support Pension. Our TPI pensioners have already

been through a rigorous assessment process to access their DVA benefits so making them go through a similar process to access Centrelink benefits is unreasonable."

This announcement builds on a range of initiatives introduced since the election, including expanding acceptance the ADF Identification Card as Proof of Identity by more government agencies and compiling the ADF Transition Handbook, which lists all interdepartmental benefits and support services available to separating ADF members.

DVA and Centrelink are also sharing data to help reduce the risk of overpayments for the more than 17,500 pensioners on both DVA and Centrelink payments.

Mr Griffin said the inter-agency co-operation under this Government was creating smarter ways to deliver "whole-of-government" services.

"I am pleased with our progress to date but more will be done in our efforts to support our veterans and defence personnel," Mr Griffin said.

A Follow-up to Last Month's Article on the Q&A Session on Indexation of Military Pensions

Pension Indexation Inquiry Prejudiced ?

The DFWA has information suggesting there could be a close but apparently undisclosed relationship between Senator Nick Sherry and Mr Trevor Matthews the leader of the *Review of Pension Indexation Arrangements in Australian Government Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes*, Review, and Mr David Harris who assisted in the "independent" review in late 2008.

David Jamison the National President of the Defence Force Welfare Association has expressed surprise and concern that Mr Harris 'sponsored a trip' by Senator Sherry to the UK in 2005 when he was a member of the then Shadow Ministry and that both participated in 'closed door' discussions on matters relating to pensions and superannuation, including Defined Benefit Schemes, such as DFRDB and MSBS (the current military schemes). Additionally, as late as 2009 Senator Sherry participated in an international forum with Mr Harris in Washington DC.

Mr Matthews, who was commissioned by Senator Sherry to undertake the Review on 26 June 2008,

held hearings in Canberra on 24 & 25 July 2008 and submitted his Report in December 2008. However, on 30 July 2008, some 5 days after holding hearings Mr Matthews commenced employment as the Chief Executive Officer of Friends Provident UK, among the biggest pension and insurance companies in the UK.

The degree to which the CEO of such a major company could find time to research, deliberate and then write a report on such a complex issue could prima facie be questionable. Mr Jamison noted that in his report, Mr Matthews placed emphasis upon his considerable reliance on Mr Harris and his associates in relation to the Review. Coincident with the submission of the Review report in December 2008, media articles indicate Mr Matthews presented a paper on behalf of Senator Sherry at a UK seminar.

The Association believes it is very important that ADF members have confidence in the independence, disinterest and objectivity of the Review

(Continued on page 4)



Ladder Safety

Did you know that over 3500 Australians are injured in falls from ladders each year? Hundreds are admitted to hospital. Sadly, dozens have died.

The majority of accidents happen around the home and to males over 50 years old. Major factors include incorrect ladder placement, unsafe handling and inappropriate conduct, such as over-reaching and carrying excessive loads.

Here are some simple precautions that may help you avoid a serious injury, a trip to hospital – or worse!

Getting ready

- Read the safety warnings on ladders and follow the manufacturer's advice
 - Always inspect your ladder
 - Wear enclosed, non-slip footwear
 - Check the non-slip feet on your ladder
- Check the rungs top make ure they are dry and not slippery

Setting up

- Never use the ladder on your own
- Set your ladder up so that it extends at least a metre beyond the support it's resting against, e.g. a roof
- Place the ladder on dry, firm, level ground. Use a solid board or base if necessary
- Secure the top of the ladder into position before starting work

Set at a slope of approximately four in one, i.e. for every metre in height, the ladder should extend out at the base by about 250mm

Indexation of Military Superannuation

A Submission to Government by The Returned & Services League of Australia

The RSL made a submission on Military Superannuation payments to Parliament during the week of 22 February, and was released on its website on 26 February. As the submission is some 19 pages long, it will not be reproduced here, but may be accessed on <http://www.rsl.org.au/>. Scroll onto the Tab, 'Veterans & Defence Issues' for the detailed and well-researched Paper.

On the ladder

- Never 'walk' your ladder when you're on it
 - When climbing, always face the ladder
 - Keep your body centred on the ladder
 - Work within an arm's length of the ladder and never reach out too far. Use the 'belt buckle' test: if your belt buckle is outside of the sides of the ladder, you're reaching out too far
- Only climb as far as the second step from the top of a step ladder, or the third step from the top of a straight ladder

Climbing down

- Never climb up or down while carrying something. Get someone else to pass it up or use a tool belt
- Have someone hold the ladder while you climb
- Never have more than one person on the ladder

Pension Indexation Inquiry Prejudiced

(Continued from page 3)

Team providing recommendations on their superannuation scheme to the Government.

We will be seeking the Prime Minister's assurance that Senator Sherry and the Review Team members declared any associations during the Review contract selection process and asking the Prime Minister to release to Parliament all documentation relating to the selection and granting of a contract in June 2008 by Senator Sherry to Mr Matthews and Mr Harris to conduct the *Review of Pension Indexation Arrangements in Australian Government Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes*.

Additionally, the Association asks the Prime Minister to inform Parliament about the nature of any association between Senator Sherry and the Review team members and his and Minister Tanner's knowledge of it.

Media Contacts

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www.dfw.org.au

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HMAS BENDIGO

HMAS *Bendigo* was one of sixty Australian Minesweepers (commonly known as corvettes) built during World War II in Australian shipyards as part of the Commonwealth Government's wartime shipbuilding programme. Twenty (including *Bendigo*) were built on Admiralty order but manned and commissioned by the Royal Australian Navy. Thirty-six were built for the Royal Australian Navy and four for the Royal Indian Navy.

Bendigo commissioned at Sydney on 10 May 1941 under the command of Lieutenant Commander James A.R. Patrick RANR(S).

Bendigo departed Sydney on 4 July 1941 and began her active war career in the Darwin area where she remained for a period of two months. On 22 September she sailed for Singapore to become a unit of the China Squadron. The period remaining before the outbreak of the Pacific War was spent on escort, sweeping and patrol duties in the Singapore area. On 24 November 1941 *Bendigo* became a unit of the 21st Minesweeping Flotilla (HMA Ships *Maryborough* (Flotilla Leader), *Goulburn*, *Burnie* and *Bendigo*).

January 1942 saw *Bendigo* operating out of Singapore on sweeping, escort and patrol duties, down to Berhala and Banka Strait. On 30 January *Bendigo* anchored in Singapore Roads and remained there until 6 February. During this time the ship experienced 25 alerts and Japanese bombers were over two or three times a day. On 2 February two near misses caused extensive scarring from shrapnel. *Bendigo* made only one move from her anchorage during this period. On 5 February 78 survivors were taken off the burning *Empress of Asia* at Sultan Shoal.

On 6 February *Bendigo* proceeded to No 24 Swept Channel north of Durian Strait, to act as lightship for an outward bound convoy. At 0100 the following day, her sister ship HMAS *Wollongong* approached with instructions to proceed in company, as she had Senior Officer, Minesweepers, on board. At daybreak, *Bendigo* landed a party in the vicinity of Abang Besair to search for British airmen. Dense undergrowth forced the abandonment of the search. Subsequent signals informed *Bendigo* that the original message

should have read 'search for survivors from *British Airman*'. Rejoining *Wollongong*, the two minesweepers proceeded to an anchorage off the west coast of Durei Island. At 2300, *Bendigo* and *Wollongong* sailed to rendezvous with three auxiliary minesweepers.

The three auxiliaries were contacted at daybreak on 8 February and all five ships proceeded to Amphitrite Bay. Seventeen Japanese aircraft in one flight were sighted en route. At 1500 the same day the flotilla sailed for Batavia. During the course of the voyage two of the auxiliary sweepers lost contact in the darkness. *Bendigo* commenced a search at 0100 on 9 February. Failing to locate the missing ships, she put into Gambie Bay until 1350, when an attempt was begun to locate *Wollongong*. The latter vessel was eventually rejoined at 0800 the following day (10 February) at Pulo Benu Inlet. The two ships were still missing and had, unknown to *Bendigo*, proceeded independently for Batavia.

At 0659 on 11 February 1942 *Bendigo* and *Wollongong* entered Palembang Channel, moved up river and anchored off the oil refineries. After fuelling the following day, the minesweepers sailed at 1340, picked up a convoy at the mouth of the Palembang River and proceeded for Batavia. Banka Strait was cleared by daybreak the following day (13 February).

At 1117 eight Japanese aircraft circled the ships, and 15 minutes later the planes returned and commenced bombing from approximately 10,000 feet. Ignoring the main convoy, the attacking planes singled out a merchant ship (*Wuchang*) which had



HMAS *Bendigo*

overtaken the convoy and was then about a mile ahead. Many bombs narrowly missed *Wuchang*, but she was not hit or damaged. The planes made no attempt to attack the convoy. *Bendigo's* Commanding Officer noted 'they had in fact found a more interesting target in the shape of 7 large tankers some 40 miles to the east'.

At 2300 the convoy anchored 20 miles south east of North Watcher Head, where they remained until the following morning. At 0600 the voyage to Batavia continued minus about half the convoy, the masters having elected to remain at anchor for a further period. The balance proceeded with *Wollongong* and *Bendigo* until 1000 hours when the ships dispersed off Edam Island.

Bendigo anchored in Batavia Roads at 1245 on 14 February 1942 and remained awaiting instructions until 18 February when she moved to the Outer Roads to give anti-submarine protection to incoming ships. On 21 February *Wollongong* relieved her of this duty and she returned to harbour.

The following day *Bendigo* fuelled, took on board eight members of the AIF who had escaped from Singapore, and at 1400 sailed with *Burnie* to join the Sunda Strait patrol off Merak. *Bendigo* remained at Merak as part of the Sunda Patrol until the night of 27/28 February, when Sunda Strait was abandoned. The only attack from enemy planes mentioned by *Bendigo's* Commanding Officer took place on 27 February. At 1555 three Japanese Army light bombers commenced dive bombing and machine gunning the anchored ships off Merak. Three separate attacks developed and in all 27 bombs were dropped. An effective anti-aircraft barrage was put up and though the planes attempted to machine gun swimming parties in the water, no hits were scored and there was no damage or casualties.

At daybreak on 28 February *Bendigo* sailed from Merak in company with her sister ships *Maryborough*, *Toowoomba*, *Ballarat*, *Goulburn* and *Burnie* for Tjilatjap. En route *Bendigo* detached with *Burnie* to pick up survivors of the Dutch ship *Boero*. The Fourth Engineer and 14 of the crew were rescued from the beach. At 1252 on 1 March *Bendigo* entered Tjilatjap Harbour. Shortly afterwards she was ordered to proceed to sea in company with *Burnie* to search for the Dutch ship *Sloter-Dijk*, which had been reported attacked by a Japanese submarine. Unable to locate the merchant ship *Bendigo* returned to harbour.

After fuelling and embarking 10 officers from the staff of Commodore John Collins RAN, commanding British and Australian naval forces, one RAF officer, one civilian and five officers and 72 men from HMS *Jupiter*, *Bendigo* sailed for Fremantle. One plane of undetermined nationality was sighted the following day, and at 1720 USS *Asheville* was overtaken in 10°30'S, 110°10'E. On 3 March at 0840, the ship was circled by a twin engined plane and at 1700 *Bendigo* encountered USS *Phoenix*. Fremantle was reached on 8 March with a margin of 23 tons of fuel and one day's supply of food.



On her return to Australian waters *Bendigo* was assigned to escort Australia to New Guinea and coastal convoys, continuing in this role almost without a break until 1944 when convoys ceased. On 8 March 1943 *Bendigo* rescued 153 survivors from the Dutch ship *Jacob*, which was sunk by Japanese aircraft off Oro Bay whilst under escort by *Bendigo* and *Kapunda*.

On 11 April 1943 she searched unsuccessfully for a Japanese submarine after the sinking of the Yugoslav ship *Recina* in convoy off the New South Wales coast with the loss of 32 lives. HMAS *Moresby* was her companion escorting vessel.

In February 1944 *Bendigo* began escort and patrol duties in the New Guinea area. She was the first Australian minesweeper to take up escort duties between Milne Bay and Manus. Except for docking periods in Sydney, the remainder of 1944 was spent in New Guinea waters on routine patrols and escort duties.

In March 1945 *Bendigo* arrived in Philippine waters, becoming part of a Task Unit operating with the British Pacific Fleet, to which she remained attached until the end of hostilities. She participated in the operation for the capture of Okinawa (Operation Iceberg) between March and May 1945. From September to November 1945, following the end of hostilities, *Bendigo* operated as a minesweeper in the Hong Kong area. She returned to Williamstown on 20 December 1945.

On 4 February 1946 *Bendigo* sailed from Melbourne for Sydney, in company with *Ballarat*. Arriving in Sydney on 6 February, *Bendigo* reduced to a Care and Maintenance basis. The ship paid off at Sydney on 27 September 1946. Since commissioning she had steamed 151,242 miles.

Bendigo was sold as a seagoing vessel on 5 May 1947 to Ta Hing Co (Hong Kong) and was renamed *Cheung Hing*. She was later acquired by the Navy of the People's Republic of China, converted from a merchant ship and rearmed for naval service under the name of *Loyang*.

The 1981-82 edition of Jane's Fighting Ships showed altered spellings for various Chinese ships, including a change from *Loyang* to *Luoyang*. These changes resulted from the introduction by the People's Republic of the 'Pin Yin' system of transliteration. The last entry for *Luoyang* identified in Jane's Fighting Ships was in the 1987/88 edition.

New Naval Combat Helicopter



MH 60 R

On 25 February, the Minister for Defence, Senator John Faulkner, announced that the Government has given first pass approval for a major project to provide the Australian Defence Force with a new naval combat helicopter.

Project AIR 9000 Phase 8 is included in the Defence Capability Plan to provide naval warships with a new combat helicopter.

Senator Faulkner said that two potential helicopters had been identified. "The Government has decided that the new helicopter will be either the Sikorsky-Lockheed Martin built MH-60R sourced through the United States Navy, or the NATO Helicopter Industries NH90 NFH sourced through Australian Aerospace".

Senator Faulkner said that a competition would be held between the two helicopter options which would be cost-capped by the Defence Materiel "The new naval combat helicopter will enhance the Royal Australian Navy's ability to conduct a range of maritime operations. It will be capable of undertaking anti-submarine warfare and will be equipped with air-to-surface missiles," Senator Faulkner said. "This fleet of combat helicopters will form the centerpiece of naval combat aviation to beyond 2040. The new helicopter will greatly extend the eyes and ears of our surface fleet and allow the conduct of

combat and support operations in the complex and demanding maritime environment. They will replace the current fleet of Seahawk anti-submarine warfare helicopters and fill an operational need left by the cancellation of the Seasprite project," Senator Faulkner said.

The procurement of the new naval combat helicopters as a matter of urgency was announced in the 2009 Defence White Paper. This decision demonstrates the Government's commitment to this important Defence capability. Sufficient helicopters will be acquired to provide at least eight helicopters concurrently embarked on ships at sea, which under the White Paper requires a fleet of 24 helicopters.

"The competitive process would commence in the next few months with the Government making a final decision about the new helicopter in 2011," Senator Faulkner said. "This schedule will enable the new helicopters to be delivered from 2014. Any decision Government makes in 2011 will take into account all relevant considerations including capability, cost, interoperability with other ADF capabilities, Australian industry opportunities, risk and value for money," Senator Faulkner said.

The Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, Greg Combet, said that the decision to progress the project via a competitive tender was consistent with the Kinnaird and Mortimer procurement reforms. The tender will allow the companies to offer innovative solutions that satisfy the capability, cost and schedule requirements and detail what opportunities they will offer local industry.

"A competitive process will ensure value for money for the tax payer and ensure the project's acquisition strategy provides the Government with the best possible information to support a decision for this vital capability," Mr Combet said.



NH90-NFH

Independent Home Living

Do you, or a member of your family, need help to live independently at home?

Commonwealth Respite and Carelink centres are there to help.

A Centre can:

- Provide you with information on local aged and community care services available to suit your needs

Arrange help for carers to take a break from their caring role (respite)

To contact your local centre, call **1800 052 222**.

To find your nearest shopfront, visit

www.commcarelink.health.gov.au

For emergency respite outside business hours, call **1800 059 059**.

Carer Advisory and Counselling Service

For family carer support and counselling, you can contact your State or Territory Carers Association on **1800 242 636**.

Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World." Thought there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids; 2. Taj Mahal; 3. Grand Canyon; 4. Panama Canal; 5. Empire State Building; 6. St. Peter's basilica; 7. China's Great Wall.

While gathering the votes, the teacher noticed that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then said, "I think the 'Seven Wonders of the World' are:

To See: 2. To Hear: 3. To Touch: 4. To Taste: 5. To Feel: 6. To Laugh: 7. To Love:

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and we take for granted are truly wondrous! A gentle reminder – that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

Whatever you want to do, do it now! There are only so many tomorrows.

Sunday 30 May 2010

BBQ at Pete's Place



Where is that : 9 Edkins Street, Downer
(wheelchair friendly)

Starting Time: 1230

Cost: \$12 per member, \$15 non-members

Grog available on site at cost price
Non-alcoholic fruit punch provided

RSVP by Tuesday 25 May on 6241 5329

We have plenty of seating, fighting gear etc, just bring your appetite and good humour



Rivers Dining

At the Sports Club Kaleen
(sponsoring the printing of Bosun's Call)

...relax and enjoy yourself!!

Weekly Bistro Attractions

Monday Night Schnitzel

Plus a complimentary middy of beer, glass of wine or soft drink.

Tuesday Lunch Raffle

Purchase a meal from our Bistro between 12 pm and 1.30 pm and receive your complimentary ticket to go in the draw for a 1st prize of \$100 food hamper and three other prizes.

\$8.50 Friday Lunch

Great choice, great value!
Select from T-bone or Rump Steak,
Tempura Battered Fish or
Chicken Schnitzel with Chips & Salad

\$9.00 Sunday Family Roast

A meal the whole family will enjoy! Enjoy a selection of tender Roast Meats, Roast Potatoes, Roast Pumpkin & fresh Seasonal Vegetables.

Senior's Menu

are smaller portions

Fish of the Day (Battered or Grilled)	\$10.00
Roast of the Day	\$10.00
Chicken Schnitzel	\$10.00
Weiner Schnitzel	\$10.00
Parmigiana Topping	\$ 1.50

Lunches Daily \$7.00

Rivers Dining Bistro is open seven days a week:


Lunch 12 - 2 pm

Dinner 6 pm - 9 pm

ITEMS FOR SALE


NAA Ties	\$22.00
NAA Car Decals	\$ 2.00
NAA Name Badges	\$15.00
NAA Key Ring	\$ 5.00
RAN Key Ring	\$ 5.00

See Secretary Peter (6282 2475)



Terry Bissell, Jim Henderson 90th, Janette Horne
Brian Marriott and Darien Thom.

A Happy Birthday to you all.



The NAA ACT Section is very grateful for the support provided by the Canberra Southern Cross Club

Answers to Five Minute Quiz:

1. South Western Townships; 2. Plato; 3. Daffodil; 4. Intensity of earthquakes; 5. Sloth; 6. Sweden's; 7. Bees; 8. Spain; 9. Fox; 10. Aeolian harp