

Know your Fellow Member: Shukry Sahhar



Shukry was born on the 28th October 1946. He married Helen in 1970 and they have three daughters and 5 grand children. He has five brothers and one sister. Two are doctors, one a dentist, one an accountant and his sister is a lawyer.

Shukry went to Williamstown high school and became the head prefect, head cadet under Officer, Captain of the school baseball team and won the Porter prize for best all round student. He studied at Monash University and graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering. While living in at Monash University he became president of the Howitt Hall society.

He joined the then Department of Works as an aerodrome engineer and specialised in aircraft pavement maintenance and evaluations. After 2 years he was promoted to Darwin as the materials engineer for the Northern Territory. Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin in 1974 and Shukry returned with his family to Melbourne for a short stint before moving to Brisbane. He was promoted to Canberra as the materials engineer with the Department of Housing and Construction and then again as the airport specialist for aircraft pavement maintenance and evaluation. He became the Account Manager for Aviation, the Manager of the Corporate Technical group in Canberra and later the Principal Airport Engineer for the Commonwealth Government in charge of pavement design, maintenance and evaluation. He was the first to specify and supervise the use of Hot in place asphalt recycling at Darwin airport.

He was Chairman of the Transport Branch of the Institution of Engineers and became the Chairman of the Canberra Division in 1991. He was a member of the Board of Studies for the engineering school for the ACT - a loose confederation of the ANU, University of NSW, University of Canberra and the CIT.

Shukry was the President of the Canberra Woden Rotary Club in 1997/98 and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow in 1998. He has been the district (9710) secretary and in 2003 the chairman of RYPEN.

Roster:

	This week 14th Sept	Next Week 21 Sept
Chairman	Rex Hunt	Shukry Sahhar
Program	Prof Warwick Blood Media and our Mental Health	TBA
Introduction	Ajit Banerjee	Robin Cromer
Appreciation	Piers Booth	Murray Crowe
Sergeant	Val Bland	Val Bland
Fellowship	Carlo Binutti Val Bland	Tom Davies Neale Emanuel
Raven Recorder	Piers Booth	Ken Goard
Birthdays	Pamela Best 20th Sept	Keith Avent 21st, Tom Davies 22nd, Ajit Banerjee 22nd, Neale Emanuel 23rd, Anna Banerjee 25 Sept. Ray and Carolyn Newcombe 23 Sep
Anniversaries		
Trash & Treasure	19th Sept Shukry Sahhar-Ian Excell 26 Sept Des Pain-John Gray	02 Oct Noel Hart-ros Osbourne 09 Oct John Widdup-Peter Evans

The Raven

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Tonight:

Professor Warwick Blood

on

Media and our Mental Health



Professor Blood is head of the School of Professional Communication at the University of Canberra. His main consulting interests are in Risk Communication, News media reporting and portrayal of suicide and mental health and illness.

Last Week:

Shukry stepped into the role of tonight's speaker with very little notice because our programmed speaker and his substitute both pulled out. Shukry chose his topic as What's in a name?

As he has an unusual name he gave some examples of other individuals who similarly had unusual names. R.P. Jones who would only have initials and would let people know by writing his name as R (only) P (only) Jones. He would often be called "Ronly Ponly Jones !! Another with the common name Smith called himself 5/8 Smith.

A mother, keen not to let her son receive a bad nick name, was so worried the school children would shorten her son's name that she chose Eric as her son's name. She concluded that if it was shortened it would be Rick which, she felt, wasn't bad. Kids being kids nick named him Earache!! You can't win.

A Thought for the Week:

The secret to happiness is good health and a bad memory. Seen recently in a shop window. Anon



SERVICE Above Self

In the typical Greek tradition the first son is named after the father and the second son is named after the mother's father. This means where couples have many children then each of their first two sons will have the same name. So new ways of identifying or differentiating children is adopted and this can result in family names changing. Shukry's grandfather was an Artist and specialised in painting Icons. Shukry showed a self portrait of his grandfather with an uncanny resemblance - not just because both have large moustaches. His grandfather became so well known that every one knew him as the moustache (in greek - Moustakis). One of his sons started using Moustakis as his surname and it has continued to the next generation.



Shukry explained as the fourth son he was lucky to be called Shukry - hey it could have been worse! It is an Arabic word that means 'thanks be to God' and that he was also named after an uncle who died when he was 5 years old. He explained you learnt very quickly, when you had a different name, to either learn to fight or run or both!

Waiting at the dentists on one occasion, the receptionist came in and called for Shirley Sahhar. When Shukry stood up he wasn't sure who was more embarrassed. On another occasion at high school, an announcement came over the PA system asking for Susan Sahhar to come to the main Office. The deputy head then paused, corrected him self and said, as there wasn't a Susan at the school it must be Shukry. Life can be cruel some times.

Shukry explained that he hasn't changed his name as he has been very thankful to God for sparing his life on numerous occasions. As a young teenager he was side swiped by a car and walked away with only scratches. Surviving cyclone Tracy when there was very little of the houses around him was another example. He finished by saying that it doesn't matter what name or label we carry it is what we do with it that transforms us into who we are and what we want to be.

Shukry then finished his talk with a three minute video of the first B747 to land in Canberra showing the damage it caused to the runway shoulder when it took off. He has donated the film to Screen Sound Australia.

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Ray Newcombe as Acting President, opened the meeting and invited Hon Member Frank Macklin to talk about his military service.

Ros Osborne then spoke about the coming Inner Wheel Australian Conference to take place in Canberra in October hosted by Canberra Woden. Our Club meeting for that week will be re-scheduled to FRIDAY 14th October to coincide with the Inner Wheel Dinner to be held at the Embassy.

Piers Booth announced that a working party tour to Chang Mie is being arranged from January 28th to February 12th 2006. The cost of a return fare is expected to be \$1650.46 provided there are at least 20 people interested. Piers particularly stressed that that the trip is not only for Rotarians but any community members having an interest in assisting the AKKA Hill Tribe children of the Golden Triangle in northern Thailand.

Shukry Sahhar handed out packets of brochures for distribution to shops etc in various suburbs and town centres, The Canberra Cycle Tour takes place on Sunday 30th October this year.

One would think that the explanation for one of the most pernicious internecine wars in ancient history, the Peloponnesian War between Athens and her allies, and Sparta and her allies, would be a complex one. Thucydides the Athenian historian writing in the late 5th century BC reduces it to one simple word: 'fear'. Behind the accusatory rhetoric and bluster on both sides ('the openly expressed grounds of complaint'), behind the pretexts for war, lies the 'real explanation' ('truest though least publicized'): fear.

What has changed? It seems that fear is all around us, and explains plenty of what is going on in the 21st century. The rhetoric of fear surrounds us in superabundance: 'axis of evil', 'the enemy', 'Islamic extremism', 'terrorism'.

All that has changed are the labels: in 431 BC it was 'democrat' and 'oligarch'; in the Cold War it was 'communist' and the 'free West'; today it is 'terrorists' and 'freedom loving peoples'. It is not until the conflict is over that one realizes the scale of the propaganda, and the extent of the misinformation to which all on both sides have been subjected. When the temporary insanity is over and the 'masks' and the 'labels' are dispensed with, we are caused to realize that 'the enemy' (with fears of their own) might be human after all.

Mature love, like mature leadership (without denying the reality of criminal acts), will pursue a different path. It will 'cast out fear' as St. John says in his letter to a community gripped by fear, because only with the eyes of love will the real cause of what is provoking the fear itself be understood.

Another commentary from Nikolai Blaskow

District Conference is in Goulburn on 21-23 October this year. Have you registered yet (via the Internet)? Register for the Conference on or before September 15 and you'll be automatically entered in to the prize draw for a great selection of wines.

Notice of Board Meeting: Wednesday 28th Sept 2005

Attendance Matters: Hon Member Frank Macklin; Make-up: Jim Grainger.
 Number of Members present: 21. percentage Attendance; 63.33%

Board members 2005-06

President: John Widdup
 Secretary: John Gray
 Immed. Past President: Peter Evans
 President Elect: Ray Newcombe
 Treasurer: Noel Hart
 Club service: Ray Newcombe
 Community Service: Bruce Hall
 International Service: Piers Booth
 Vocational Service: Shukry Sahhar
 Youth Service: Gary Scott

Office holders

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