

## **What Beethoven, Ernest Hemmingway and Dave Hughes have in common.**

**The composer, writer and comedian all developed Haemochromatosis - also known as Iron Overload. Australia's most common genetic condition that no one has ever heard of.**

Globally more than 15 million people inherit the gene mutations that cause one of the proteins in the lining of the intestine to malfunction and too much iron to be absorbed.

The hereditary condition that is passed on from both biological parents is simple to detect and treat but if undiagnosed or ignored can lead to serious and life-threatening illness including liver cancer, diabetes and heart failure.

One in seven Australians carry a mutation of the defective genes and one in 200 Australians have an increased chance of developing the disorder but few know about Haemochromatosis let alone have been tested for the condition.

Early symptoms of fatigue, weakness and joint pain are 'ironically' confused with iron deficiency and other illnesses.

A standard blood test of iron levels will not detect Haemochromatosis. It requires testing of serum transferrin saturation.

Unfortunately, most of those affected aren't diagnosed until aged in their mid-forties and already suffering ill health. Once diagnosed the treatment for haemochromatosis requires regular removal of blood known as a venesection and in most cases the blood can be donated to help others.

World leading research conducted by Edith Cowan University (ECU) in Western Australia and the QIMR Berghofer Institute in Queensland has identified a crucial link between arthritis and the risk of serious liver disease in people with iron overload. People with Hemochromatosis who have arthritis are at a much higher risk of significant liver disease than those who do not have arthritis.

Senior authors of the [study](#), Professors John Olynyk and Grant Ramm, believe the link with arthritis could help diagnose more people with Hemochromatosis.

"People of the correct background presenting with arthritis or liver disease should always be evaluated for potential Hemochromatosis - especially when it is not clear as why the problem exists." Professor Olynyk said.

Haemochromatosis is estimated to cost Australia's health system over \$280 million annually and add further cost burdens by compounding other chronic conditions when left undiagnosed and untreated.

**World Haemochromatosis Week begins 1 June, 2022. Over 90 well-known buildings and landmarks around Australia and many others around the world will be illuminated in red to raise awareness about the condition and prompt people to get tested.**

For more information about World Haemochromatosis Week, visit Haemochromatosis Australia [www.ha.org.au](http://www.ha.org.au) or call 1300 019 028.

**Interviews with Haemochromatosis experts and case studies are available.**

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## Below are buildings and landmarks illuminating red for Haemochromatosis Awareness

### VICTORIA

- Benalla, various business premises (1-7 June)
- Bendigo, Conservatory and feature tree Sidney Myer place (1-7 June)
- Geelong, Catenary Lights (1-7 June)
- Kingston Clock Tower (1-7 June)
- Melbourne, 101 Collins Street (1-7 June)
- Melbourne, AMMI Park, (1-7 June)
- Melbourne, Evan Walker Bridge and Birrarung Marr Pedestrian Bridge (1-7 June)
- Melbourne, Federation Square North Façade (1-7 June)
- Melbourne, MCG, TBC
- Melbourne, Riverlinks Eastbank (1 June)
- Melbourne, Town Hall (1-7 June)
- Mooroopna Water Tower (1 June)
- Shepparton, Monash Park Tree (1 June)
- St Kilda Sea Baths (1-7 June)
- Wodonga Water Tower (1-7 June)

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

- Canberra, Canberra Times Fountain (6-7 June)
- Canberra, John Gorton Building (6 June)
- Canberra, Light Rail Stops (6-7 June)
- Canberra, Malcolm Fraser Bridge (6-7 June)
- Canberra, National Carillion (6 June)
- Canberra, Old Parliament House (6 June)
- Canberra, Questacon (1, 6-7 June)
- Canberra, Royal Australia Mint (1 June)
- Canberra, Telstra Tower (1 June)

### QUEENSLAND

- Brisbane, City Hall (1 June)
- Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (1-7 June)
- Brisbane, The Gabba (1 June)
- Brisbane, Kurilpa Bridge (7 June)
- Brisbane, Suncorp Stadium (1 June)
- Brisbane, Victoria Bridge (4 June)
- Brisbane, Story Bridge (4 June)
- Brisbane, Reddcliff Place sculptures Donna Marcus: Steam 2006 (4 June)
- Brisbane, Tropical Dome Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha (4 June)
- Brisbane, Wickham Terrace Car Park architectural wall (4 June)
- Brisbane, Breakfast Creek Bridge
- Cairns, The Court House Gallery (1-7 June)
- Gold Coast, SkyPoint (1 June)
- Logan, Jacaranda Tower, Underwood (7 June) Logan, Telfer Street Tower, Shailer park (7 June)
- Logan, Wineglass Water Tower, Hillcrest (7 June)
- Longreach Water Tower (1-5 June)
- Mackay, Sir Albert Abbott Administration Building (1-7 June)
- Sandgate, Town Hall (1 June)
- Townsville, Townsville sign (4-5 June)
- Townsville, Victoria Bridge (4-5 June)
- Townsville, Wharton Reef Lighthouse (4-5 June)
- Townsville, George Roberts Bridge (4-5 June)
- Townsville, Old Magistrates Court House (4-5 June)
- Townsville, Central Park Boardwalk (4-5 June)
- Townsville, Little Fletcher Bridge (4-5 June)
- Townsville, Queensland Country Bank Stadium (1 June)

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

- Bunbury, Marlston Hill Lookout (1-7 June)
- Bunbury, Koombana Bay Red (1-7 June)
- Bunbury, Koombana Bay Foreshore (1-7 June)
- Bunbury, Marlston waterfront (1-7 June)
- Bunbury, Guppy Park (1-7 June)
- Bunbury, the Navigators at the Koombana Drive roundabout (1-7 June)
- Bunbury, Richmond Reserve (1-7 June)
- Bunbury, historic Arrol Crane at Jetty Road (1-7 June)
- Busselton, Civic and Administration Building (6-7 June)
- Fremantle, Gatehouse Fremantle Prison (1-7 June)
- Mandurah, Bridge (4 June)
- Perth, Elizabeth Quay Bridge (1-7 June)
- Perth, Council House (1 June)
- Perth, Optus Stadium (1 June)
- Perth, Trafalgar Bridge (1 June)
- Perth, Matagarup Bridge (1 June)
- Perth, Mount Street Bridge (1 June)
- Perth, Sky Ribbon Bridge (1 June)
- Perth, Joondalup Drive Bridge (1 June)
- Perth, Graham Farmer Freeway Tunnel (1 June)

## **NEW SOUTH WALES**

- Coffs Harbour, Big Banana (1 June)
- Goulburn Visitor Information Centre (1-7 June)
- Newcastle, Clock Tower (1 June)
- Newcastle, GrainCorp Silos (1-7 June)
- Rouse Hill Town Centre Fountains (1-7 June)
- Sydney Olympic Park Accor Stadium (1 June)
- Sydney Olympic Park Pullman, Ibis and Novotel Hotels (1 June)
- Sydney Olympic Park Station (1 June)
- Sydney Olympic Boulevard Light Towers (1 June)

## **TASMANIA**

- Burnie, Council Offices (1-7 June)
- Devonport, paranaple convention centre (when not in use) (1-7 June)
- Launceston Town Hall (1-7 June)

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

- Adelaide Oval (1 June)
- Adelaide SA Power Networks Billboard 1 Anzac Highway Keswick (10 May – 7 June)
- Adelaide River Footbridge (1, 3-6 June)
- Unley, City of Unley Town Hall (1-7 June)

## **NORTHERN TERRITORY**

- Darwin, Water Feature Speaker's Green Parliament House (2 June)
- Palmerston, Water Tower (1,2,6,7 June)
- Palmerston, Recreation Centre (1,2,6,7 June)
- Palmerston, Francis Drive Light Pole (1,2,6,7 June)

## OVERSEAS

- **Spain:** Puente Bizkaia in Bilbao -World heritage listed – oldest metal suspension bridge in the world
- **USA:** TG Garden Stadium (home of the Boston Celtics basketball team); Terminal Tower, Cleveland Ohio; Philadelphia’s Historic Boathouse Row
- **Budapest:** Danube Arena (1-7 June); Müpa Palace of Arts (1 June)
- **New Zealand:** Invercargill Queen’s Park gates, fountain and rotunda; Façade Christchurch Art Gallery
- **Scotland:** Glasgow Central station clock and arches
- **Canada:** Newfoundland and Labrador Government House (15 May)
- **Ireland – County Dublin:** Mansion House Dublin – the Lord Mayor of Dublin’s residence, Dublin; Dublin Convention Centre, Dublin; Fingal Town Hall, Dublin
- **Ireland – County Cork:** Cork City Hall
- **Ireland – County Limerick:** Limerick Council Offices, Limerick
- **Ireland – County Galway:** Galway Town Hall, Galway; The Browne Doorway, Eyre Square, Galway
- **Ireland – County Sligo:** Sligo City Hall
- **Ireland – County Wexford:** Wexford County Hall
- **Ireland – County Donegal:** Donegal Public Services Centre
- **Ireland – County Cavan:** Cavan Town Hall
- **Ireland – County Monaghan:** Monaghan County Council Offices
- **Ireland – County Kerry:** Kerry County Council Buildings, Tralee; Princes Quay, Tralee; Ashe Memorial Hall Building, Tralee; Killarney Town Hall, Killarney; Kenmare Courthouse Building, Kenmare

