

BENDIGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

RED RIBBON AGITATION

ABOLITION OF THE LICENSE TAX

**GREAT OPEN AIR MEETING
TO THE PUBLIC OF BENDIGO**

CITIZENS, A GREAT PUBLIC

MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

27 AUGUST 2023

AT THE BENDIGO PIAZZA, VIEW POINT

AT 11 O'CLOCK

1853 RED RIBBON - PORTRAYAL OF EVENTS
www.bendigohistory.com

PROUDLY PRESENTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH



**CENTRAL
DEBORAH
GOLD MINE
BENDIGO**



**BENDIGO
THEATRE
COMPANY**



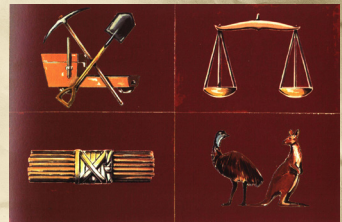
**BENDIGO TRADES HALL COUNCIL
& LITERARY INSTITUTE INC.**

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE RED RIBBON AGITATION?

Although it happened 170 years ago, the Red Ribbon Agitation was a turning point in Bendigo's colourful gold rush history that contributed towards making Bendigo the thriving city that it is today.

Originally held in 1853, this peaceful protest was directed against the payment of what the diggers called a tax – a licence fee for the right to search for gold on Crown Land. The diggers had to pay 30 shillings per month for the licence regardless of whether they found gold or not, and the licence was used by police to intimidate the diggers.

Diggers wore red ribbons as a symbol of their protest and many thousands signed a petition to Joseph La Trobe, the then Governor of Victoria, asking that the licence fee be reduced to 10 shillings a month. The Governor rejected the petition which led to thousands of diggers holding the peaceful protest on 27 August 1853. The crowd surrounded Camp Hill where a delegation met with Commissioners Wright and Panton to offer them 10 shillings for the September licence. The commissioners rejected the offer, but no licences were collected in September and this marked the beginning of the end of the licence fee on the goldfields.



Above: The Diggers Flag, which represented Bendigo's miners, was flying high at the Red Ribbon Agitation.

COME AND ENJOY THE PORTRAYAL OF EVENTS BY THE BENDIGO THEATRE COMPANY:

When: Sunday 27 August 2023 at 11:00am

Where: At the Bendigo Piazza, View Point, Rosalind Park

Dress: Like a miner, don't forget to wear a red ribbon

Cost: FREE event

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