EXHIBITS

In 1855, the second year a show was held, 'an excellent arrangement was adopted by the committee, a series of printed questions being submitted to each exhibitor for the purpose of eliciting the sort of land in which the various articles were grown, and the mode of culture or manufacture which had been adopted.'

For wheat exhibits, these are a selection of questions that were posed - with a cross section of answers from the various exhibitors:

1. **What description of soil was it grown on?** Clay, partly Bay of Biscay
2. **What is the quantity of grain realised per acre?** Six bushels on average of 90 acres; part much better, say 15.
3. **How long has the land been cultivated, and how many crops have been taken from it to the best of your knowledge?** This is the first.
4. **When was the land ploughed, and how deep?** July, August and September, 1844; ploughed 5 inches deep.
5. **What quantity of seed was used per acre?** One bushel.
6. **What state was the land in at the time of sowing?** Very dry; a great deal of seed uncovered.

Agricultural wheat display c. 1911 Source: SLSA, 280/1/44/371

7. **How was the seed prepared?** With stale urine and powdered lime.

And for grape exhibits, these questions needed to be addressed - with answers here from three separate exhibitors.

1. **State the description of the soil the fruit was grown on?** Freestone and slate with light red soil; limestone; mixed earth.
2. **If trenched, how deep and what means?** Plough, 18 inches deep; the ground was trenched 18 inches deep with the spade; the land was trenched 2 feet deep by spade.

'…to turn to the fruits, which were not a large section, and it was not to be expected it would be. However, it included a large number of capital oranges, some first-rate apples, and a few tempting loquats, and a considerable quantity of excellent gooseberries.'

SA Chronicle, 19 Nov 1870

'Some fine fruit was shown in the collection of twelve kinds of apples, and Sibley Brothers' exhibit which was awarded first prize, was well worthy of it.'

Adelaide Observer, 24 Feb 1900

Packing apples for export in the show hall c. 1909
Source: APHS

Angaston was well known for its apple export trade with local orchardists supplying apples, chiefly the Cleopatra variety, which were individually wrapped in tissue paper, packed in to boxed and exported overseas. There was a separate exhibit category just for export apples.

'Fruitgrowers in the district also make a specialty of apples, and if these may be produced in quantities up to the standard of the specimens shown, the reputation of this kind of Angaston-grown fruit is likely to be considerably enhanced. A great improvement was noticeable in the apples for export, and the 13 varieties of Cleopatras exhibited were really first class.'

The Advertiser, 22 Feb 1901

Over the years, grapes have been a well-supported exhibit category at the show. Zante currants, used for drying as well as winemaking, were particularly popular in the earlier years.

'Mr J.F.W. Petras who judged the wine grapes, classed the section as wonderful, the six kinds of wine grapes being an excellent collection. For 3 bunches Shiraz, C. Garret won in a class of 7, but the entries in all 3-bunch classes were heavy. Mr Petras said the Sherry was a very good champion, the Frontignac a wonderful sample and Tokay excellent. Regarding the Zante currants, he had never seen better, even in irrigated areas. He was very pleased with the display.'

The Leader, 11 March 1926