# HORSES IN ACTION

At Angaston's first show in 1854, it was written that *'considering that the society is of recent establishment, the show of stock was highly creditable both as regards quantity and quality,'* G.F. Angas won £6 5s for 'Beverley' in the entire draught horse category and A. Shannon £3 3s for his entire colt under 3 years old.

By 1897, horse events, not just the animals themselves had become an attraction. *'The horses, of course were the great attraction, and under the cool shade of those magnificent trees which ornament the show ground, the spectators watched the various events with interest, some sensation being caused during the hunter contest by 'Gayboy' bolting with his rider towards the crowd. The people dispersed right and left, but some of the children narrowly escaped being run over, and the mad career of the animal was only stopped by coming into contact with a bush.'*

A large crowd gathered to watch the Horses in Action c. 1920. Source: State Library of SA, PRG 280/1/22/130

In addition to hunter, hurdle and high jumping events, wagon, spring cart, dray and buggy horses as well as ponies were judged. A trotting contest against time created interest with the winner, Mr Shannon, covering a mile in 2 minutes 49 seconds.

In 1939 there was an all-time record of 170 horse entries. The Angas Challenge Cup, a prestigious jump event of long standing, with prize money of £15 15s donated by the Angas family, was keenly contested.

In 1951, with the increasing popularity of horse events a new record was set and by 1953 188 entries were received.