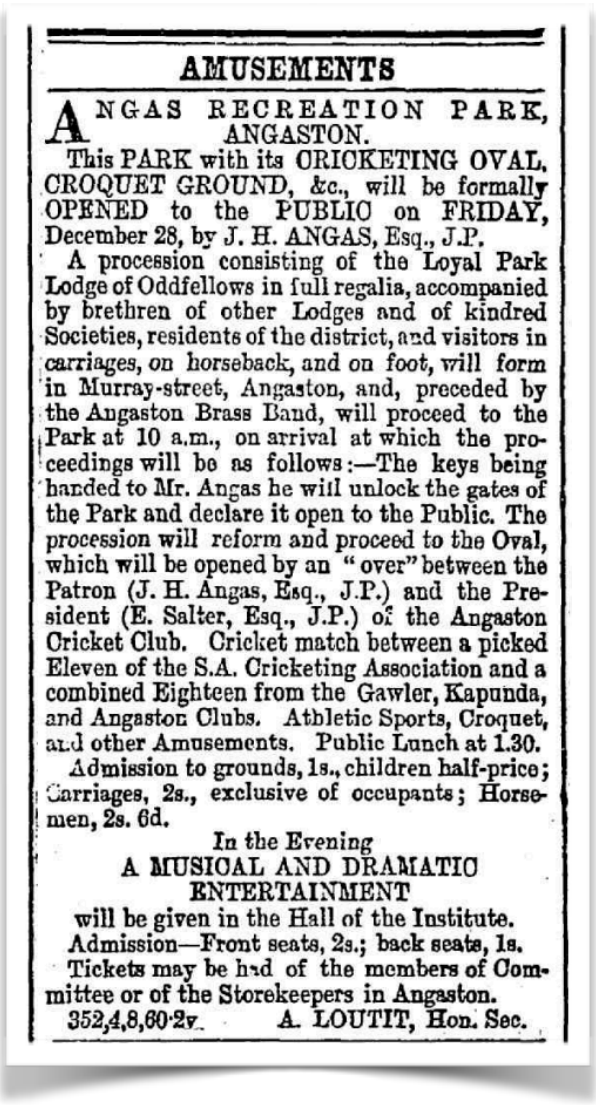
ANGAS RECREATION PARK

Proclamation Day, 28 December 1877, was chosen for the opening celebration of the Angas Recreation Park, an area of about 21 acres donated by George Fife Angas as a gift to the people of Angaston.

At a meeting in July 1876, it had been agreed that a Trust Deed be obtained, conveying the land to 12 trustees -six chosen by Mr Angas and six by the people - to hold the land perpetually in trust as a recreation park, to be closed to games on the Sabbath, and always to gambling, horse-racing and the use of firearms. Immediately following conveyance, it was intended to roll and prepare a cricket oval and plant the boundaries of the park with trees and shrubs.

The first committee comprised Mr J. Hague (President), Mr A. Loutit (Secretary and Treasurer), and Messrs. Salter, Trescowthick, Wishart Jnr, Roberts, McFarlane, Hannay, Hurn, Forrester, Clark and Clare. Original trustees were Messrs. G.F. Angas, J.H. Angas, Mansfield, Hague, Wishart, Loutit, Clark, Roberts, Salter, Chinner, Trescowthick, Radford and Hurn.



AMUSEMENTS

ANGAS RECREATION PARK, ANGASTON.

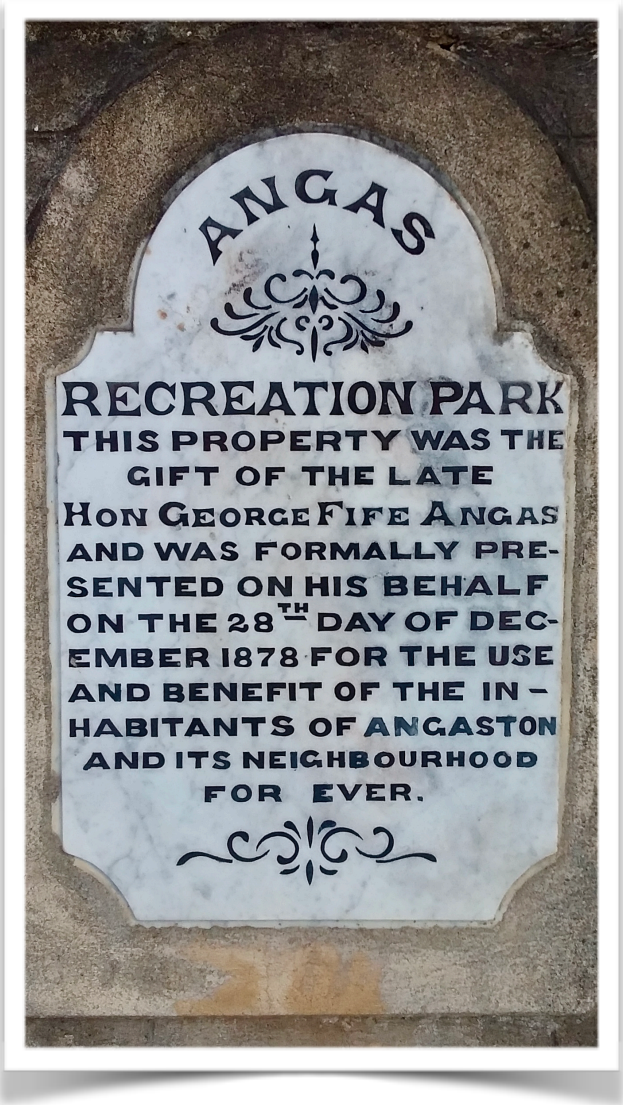
This PARK with its CRICKETING OVAL, CROQUET GROUND, &c., will be formally OPENED to the PUBLIC on FRIDAY, December 28, by J. H. ANGAS, Esq., J.P.

A procession consisting of the Loyal Park Lodge of Oddfellows in full regalia, accompanied by brethren of other Lodges and of kindred Societies, residents of the district, and visitors in carriages, on horseback, and on foot, will form in Murray-street, Angaston, and, preceded by the Angaston Brass Band, will proceed to the Park at 10 a.m., on arrival at which the proceedings will be as follows:—The keys being handed to Mr. Angas he will unlock the gates of the Park and declare it open to the Public. The procession will reform and proceed to the Oval, which will be opened by an "over" between the Patron (J. H. Angas, Esq., J.P.) and the President (E. Salter, Esq., J.P.) of the Angaston Cricket Club. Cricket match between a picked Eleven of the S.A. Cricketing Association and a combined Eighteen from the Gawler, Kapunda, and Angaston Clubs. Athletic Sports, Croquet, and other Amusements. Public Lunch at 1.30.

Admission to grounds, 1s., children half-price; Carriages, 2s., exclusive of occupants; Horsemen, 2s. 6d.

In the Evening
A MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT
will be given in the Hall of the Institute.
Admission—Front seats, 2s.; back seats, 1s.
Tickets may be had of the members of Committee or of the Storekeepers in Angaston.

352,4,8,60·2v. A. LOUTIT, Hon. Sec.



Left: Advertisement, *South Australian Register*, 24 Dec 1877, p 1.
Right: Plaque in front of the show hall displaying the incorrect opening date (1878) for the park. Source: APHS

On the morning of the 28th a procession formed, headed by the Angaston Brass Band, and marched to the gates of the park. Mr Loutit received the trust deeds on behalf of the committee and remarked, *'We congratulate ourselves that such a plan for healthful recreation has thus been provided. We are convinced it will prove to be not only a great boon to the present generation but also an increasing good to those who come after us.'* Mr J.H. Angas having also addressed the crowd then unlocked the gate and the townsfolk entered in processional order while the band played 'God Save the Queen.' A cricket match and luncheon then took place.

Following the occasion, the Evening Journal eloquently described the park:

'A more delightful situation for a park could scarcely be conceived, even in the picturesque district of Angaston, which is confessedly one of the most beautiful - if not the most beautiful - in the North. The undulating nature of the country in the locality adds to the beauty of the scene, and in a few years we doubt not the Angas Recreation Park will form an attraction to tourists…Already the land has been tastefully laid out and planted with about 2,000 trees and shrubs. It has been substantially fenced and has two entrance gates, with a carriage drive of 20 feet wide extending right round the park…'

Angas Recreation Park entrance, circa 1901. Source: State Library of SA, B26926.