ANGAS RECREATION PARK

Following the first show in 1891, a thought had arisen 'if we are to make this society a success, we must have a building in which to exhibit our products.' Here the wisdom was not only to avoid the labour and annual expense of tents, but for the building to act as a constant reminder of the society's intentions and duty.

Later that year the society had arranged construction of a spacious galvanised iron hall lined with polished timber. The *Kapunda Herald* noted *'the building, which stands on the hill, presents a most conspicuous appearance as one enters the park…its dimensions are 70ft by 40ft, with a large cellar underneath.'*

Following various alterations and not withstanding near loss through fire, a substantial new pavilion was built in 1906 using a sum bequeathed to the park by J.H. Angas.

In time for the 1914 show, the committee had overseen large additions to the hall. *'A substantial, airy, and fine looking wood and iron structure measuring 70ft by 21ft has been added to the front, and a side annexe, including a comfortable office,75ft by 17ft, has also been erected. The society now has a show floor of 5,150 sq ft.'*

As the 1930s arrived, it became increasingly difficult for the park committee to maintain their trusteeship. Their stewardship having lasted 60 years, trust deeds were handed over to Angaston District Council in 1938 following the Angas Recreation Park Bill being passed in Parliament. Maintenance and improvements to the grounds and show hall were also taken out of the hands of the society.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

ANGASTON SHOW BUILDINGS IN DANGER.

Angaston, February 26.

The Angaston Agricultural, Horticultural, and Floricultural Society nearly lost their show buildings through fire on Wednesday evening. A ball was being held show night as usual, and just before the dancing commenced one of the lamps exploded and the matchboard lining caught fire. Some calico that was used as a covering for the tables on which the exhibits were placed was also ignited, and the flames shot along the tables almost the whole length of the room. Considerable excitement was caused by this unfortunate circumstance, but great promptitude was displayed by the gentlemen present, one of whom used his soft felt hat with great effect to beat out the flames. Fortunately the efforts put forth were successful, and the flames were subdued before any great damage was done. The building would have certainly been burned to the ground had it not been for the presence of mind displayed by those present.

'A Narrow Escape', *Express and Daily Telegraph*, 28 Feb 1898, p 2.

A child on the right looks at the monument erected at the request of J.H. Angas to honour his father's bequest. It was removed in 1934 due to the misleading description. The marble plaque section was kept but it remains unknown as to when it was laid at the base of the show hall to be displayed again.
Source: The Angaston Show, *Kapunda Herald*, 6 Mar 1908, p 1.