

# Risen from the ashes

WHILE searching through the former temporary Yorke Peninsula Field Days office building at the Paskeville site recently, treasurer Rosalie Pearce came upon a scorched cardboard box.

To her delight, when she opened it, she discovered a medallion awarded to Stanley Freeman in 1898 by the Northern YP Bute Field Trials and Show Society, forerunner of Yorke Peninsula Field Days Incorporated.

The medallion, stored in a plastic bag inside a silver cardboard box, had surprisingly survived the 2019 fire that destroyed the original administration building.

Remarkably, it was unaffected by the intense heat, along with three sheets of paper carefully wrapped around it.

Stanley Freeman owned a farm south of Wallaroo, east of the Moonta railway line. He travelled to a field trial site near Bute to attend an event hosted by the society on August 5, 1898, where he was awarded the medallion as first prize for ploughing.

In 2009, the medallion was donated to the YPFD committee by Stanley Freeman's great-grandson Peter McDonald, of Broken Hill South.

The little scorched box was found in the ashes after the fire, then stored away for safekeeping and forgotten, its contents unknown.



**PRECIOUS...** The 1898 medal awarded to Stanley Freeman for ploughing. Right: **DISCOVERY...** YP Field Days treasurer Rosalie Pearce, who found the lost medal.

The medallion will now be displayed in a glass cabinet in the recently completed YPFD administration building, showcasing a historical artefact from the oldest field days in Australia.

*Cynthia Axford*

