



📷 Carol Taylor fought back from a life-changing accident to launch a successful business. She is pictured with Sascha Rodgers. Picture: John Gass

— Business —

Tallebudgera Valley law firm makes Qld history

Alister Thomson, Gold Coast Bulletin

April 29, 2017 12:00am

 Subscriber only

IT is an understatement to say Carol Taylor has had more than most to overcome in setting up her business.

A car accident in 2001 left the solicitor a quadriplegic and it took 14 years for her return to the workforce.

Since then she has made history — conducting the first electronic simultaneous property settlement in Australia — and leading the charge for digital transformation in the industry.

Carol qualified as a solicitor in 1993 in NSW and established her own firm, specialising in immigration law, commercial litigation and property law.

Her world came crashing down in July 2001.

While travelling with husband Rob in the Capertee Valley, northwest of Sydney, their 4WD slid on black ice and rolled.

The roof caved in and struck the back of Carol's neck, instantly severing her spinal cord.

“I was placed on life support and spent the better part of a year in hospital and underwent months and months of painful physiotherapy and occupational therapy,” Carol said.

The next four years were tough as she adjusted to life as a quadriplegic.

In 2005 she moved to Tallebudgera Valley to be close to her parents. The following year she gave birth to her son D'arcy.

Years later Carol began to miss the intellectual stimulation offered by legal work and began searching for employment.

Rob read about electronic conveyancing and suggested Carol launch a home-based practice where most work is completed electronically.

“It really was the promise of e-conveyancing platform Pexa that was the catalyst for me returning to work,” Carol said.

She started thinking about how her practice would operate and drew up detailed plans for a detached office on her property. In 2014 she resat law exams because her licence had lapsed and soon after launched Taylor Law and Conveyancing.

Carol tapped into her Sydney network to let former clients know she was back at work and offers of e-conveyancing began flooding in.

She said the platform she uses eliminates human error, reducing the risk of a settlement falling over.

Last week, she said one of her staff members turned up to a settlement where the bank had prepared the mortgage documents in the wrong company name.

At another settlement, the wrong cheques were prepared.

“Those errors would not have occurred with e-conveyancing,” Carol said.

Last year her firm made history, becoming the first to conduct a simultaneous electronic settlement for a client who was buying a property in the Whitsundays and selling at Currumbin.

The process saw her client’s funds cleared within 20 minutes, instead of three days, and the title document issued in 31 minutes, instead of weeks.

“With e-conveyancing, we can act for clients wherever they are,” Carol said.