

John Little



The Australian Capital Territory generally sends a healthy number of representatives to the APLA National Conference.

Involvement in lobbying activities at a grassroots level is strong and local functions are well attended.

Such positive outcomes are largely the result of an enthusiastic and active branch committee, and in the case of the ACT, John Little can take a large chunk of the credit.

The branch committee president of three years standing was born in Parkes in central New South Wales and says he reluctantly forewent a career at the Parkes radio telescope. However, he did proceed to university to study science, so perhaps the prospect of playing cricket on 'the dish' had some subtle impact after all.

Before studying science and arts at the Australian National University in Canberra, John lived in a number of

other regional areas of New South Wales.

While studying at the ANU, two significant things happened. First, he got a job managing the Union Bar, and second, he met his current business partner, a like-minded character called Craig.

Craig needed some work while studying law, so John gave him a job pulling beers at the bar. Craig completed his studies and established a practice in Canberra, while John moved to Sydney to study law at the University of New South Wales.

When he finished his law degree, John told Craig he owed him a favour. He joined Craig's practice and the pair have worked together ever since.

John has a wide-ranging plaintiff practice and wears a regular path from his office in Civic to the local Magistrates and Supreme Courts.

He's been involved in some high profile local civil and criminal cases, and possesses the qualities of many other dedicated people's lawyers who we reg-

ularly read about in this column.

Away from work, John scuba dives and is a qualified pilot. His interest in flying took hold in the mid 1970s, about the same time he plunged out of a perfectly good aeroplane and made his first parachute jump. John's notched up more than 600 jumps since then, but says he does it less often now – something to do with age either slowing him down or making him fall faster.

Travelling is another of John's passions. In January this year, he and his son journeyed on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Beijing to Moscow. His son studies journalism and John thinks this could be advantageous in pushing APLA's message to the media in years to come.

On my calculations, John has been to every APLA National Conference and Medical Negligence Conference. He always volunteers for a job when no-one else's arm is close enough to twist.

Keep up the good work. **PL**