

Stone given Indonesian gong

By **PAUL JACKSON**

The Northern Territory's former chief minister Shane Stone has been awarded a medal for his work with Indonesia.

He is the second recipient of the prestigious Bintang Jasa Pratama in Australia, the other being Richard Wolcott AO, former secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Ambassador to Indonesia.

Mr Stone was appointed

Australia's first minister for Asian Relations and Trade in 1993. He was responsible for a range of initiatives that enhanced the relationship between the Territory and the provinces of East Indonesia under a Memorandum of Understanding. The initiatives included health, sport, education and trade.

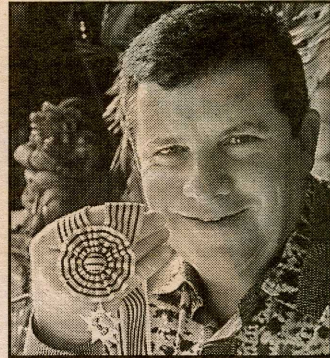
Trade between Indonesia and the NT reached record levels during his administration. Mr Stone pro-actively encouraged the Indonesian language in Territory schools as a priority and established

a language program for Territory public servants and he facilitated school, student and teacher exchanges.

He also put in place a malaria prevention research program through the Menzies School of Health.

Mr Stone visited the provinces at least once a year and he had a close working relationship with successive Indonesian presidents dating from President Suharto.

In 1999, Mr Stone was elected federal president of the Liberal Party of Australia, a position he still holds.



Mr Stone with his medal yesterday