

# Man who loved surf rides his last wave

## OBITUARY

By NIGEL ADLAM

A MAN who came to the Territory as a bank manager and ended up as a powerful public servant has died.

Lyal McIntosh, who lived in Indonesia but spent his last days at the Darwin Hospice, lost his battle with cancer last Thursday.

He had converted to Islam and was buried the next day.

Mr McIntosh was the first head of the NT's Asian Relations Department.

Former NT chief minister Shane Stone visited him in the hospice last week.

"He was a great guy," he said.

Former Territory journalist Geoff Atkinson, who now lives in Brisbane, also remembers Mr McIntosh fondly.

"He was a two-pack a day man with a love of sun and surf.

"The last time I saw him was in Jakarta about 18 months ago.

"He was a wild looking 60-something, living on the tidal fringes of Java, surfing every day and making surf boards and wet suits out of Thailand."

**'Lyal was dynamic, entrepreneurial and a real visionary. He was anything but your typical public servant'**

And senior Darwin-based public servant John McCue said Mr McIntosh lived a "full life".

"Lyal was dynamic, entrepreneurial and a real visionary. He was anything but your typical public servant.

"He was one of the first people to really put the Territory on the map in Asia."

Mr McCue remembers him turning up to work on his first day as head of a government department in a gleaming XJ6 Jaguar in racing green.

"He would adhere to the non-smoking policy in the office until 4.21 — and then he would light up regardless of who was there."

Mr McIntosh came to Darwin as Westpac manager but was soon headhunted by then-chief minister Marshall Perron.

He left the Territory about a decade ago to live in Indonesia, where he made a living by selling surfboards.

One of Mr McIntosh's more notable business successes was exporting containers of cattle foreheads from the NT to Indonesia to be used in the preparation of krupuk or rice crackers.