



Former NT CLP tourism minister Eric Poole passed away this week. Here he is pictured with wife Elizabeth and daughter Victoria Mencshelyi. Picture: FACEBOOK

NEWS

Former NT tourism minister Eric Poole passes away in Bali

GARY SHIPWAY, NT News

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THE Territory has lost a former long-serving NT government minister and passionate tourism advocate in Eric Poole.

Mr Poole, the Country Liberal Party Member for Araluen in Alice Springs from 1986 to 2001, was a former tourism minister and prior to politics, chairman of the Northern Territory Tourism Commission.

He and wife Libby had retired to Bali where he passed away. They celebrated 50 years of marriage just five days ago. Mr Poole died on Wednesday. He was 79. Former NT chief minister Shane Stone said Mr Poole was a loyal colleague, friend and confidant.

“Eric was unique in that he was the only person to serve as department head (tourism), and following his election as the member for Araluen was later elevated to the ministry he was the tourism minister,” Mr Stone said. “He was also an outstanding Asian relations and trade minister.”



📷 Eric Poole and wife Elizabeth retired in Bali.
Picture: FACEBOOK

Longtime friend and former work colleague Ian McIntosh, also a stalwart of the tourism industry, said Mr Poole invited him to join him in the task of putting tourism in the Territory on the world stage when he was appointed head of the NT Tourism Commission.

“It was no mean ask – probably the biggest challenge any tourism developer has faced in this country,” Mr McIntosh said. “The NT had little infrastructure, mostly dirt roads, poor air services – the list goes on.

“Uluru was linked to Alice Springs by a mostly sandy road. The only accommodation was provided by demountables. Flights were restricted to small twin-engine aircraft that could not operate in bad weather.

“The Travelodge in Darwin was the only hotel of any significance. The new Tourist Commission was established in around 1980 based in Alice Springs and Eric Poole and his team got to work selling the NT in Australia and in major overseas markets.

“Part of the story of the Northern Territory was being told in every corner of the land as new roads were built, new luxury hotels sprang up in Darwin, the airport at Alice was widened and a new strip built to support Yulara Resort near Uluru.

“Eric Poole’s legacy is now there for everyone to see. He will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.” Mr Poole is survived by his wife Libby, three children, Justin, Cameron and Victoria, and many beloved grandchildren.

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📷 Eric Poole. Former CLP Minister Eric Poole, pictured with wife Libby, passed away in Bali FACEBOOK

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