

Mum's pain for murdered son

By HOWARD JONES

IT was the late-night knock on the door every mother dreads.

Two close friends called on Mrs Pam Stone in Albury just before midnight on Monday to break the news her youngest son, Terry, had been murdered in Dili.

Police allege Terry had been caught in an argument between his East Timorese girlfriend and her former partner and had been stabbed in the back.

Two suspects have been arrested.

Mrs Stone wept yesterday as she recalled chatting on the phone twice to her son earlier on Monday.

They had talked about legal proceedings surrounding his pending divorce from Mrs Sharon Stone.

The couple had no children and had separated before Mr Stone went to work in Dili about 15 months ago.

Terry was the brother of federal Liberal Party president Mr Shane Stone.

"Terry really loved working in East Timor with Brambles," Mrs Stone said. "He was so happy."

"It's only an hour's flight from Darwin and he liked to go back to see Shane and his family in Darwin and got on especially well with Shane's eldest son, Jack."

"Terry loved fishing with them in Darwin."

"That is why the cremation will be in Darwin on Friday and we will sprinkle his ashes on the harbour."

Mrs Stone said her son's work involved managing waste disposal from United Nations' facilities and visiting ships.

Terry was brought up in Wodonga, where his father, Les, was a teacher.

He was 10 when his father was elected to the former Wodonga Shire Council and saw him become shire president, and mayor. Mr Les Stone died of cancer when Terry was 17.

Mrs Stone, who was Wodonga's first woman mayor in 1985, said her son had moved to Melbourne to work in the Howard Florey Institute.

"He managed a pub at Prahran for a while then went to work for the Australian Taxation Office," she said.

Terry was best-known in Albury-Wodonga as a solid plasterer and worked on many homes and commercial premises in the region.

He had returned to Albury from Dili about a year ago but visited Darwin frequently.

"He was due to go there again this week," Mrs Stone said.

Instead the family will gather in Darwin to pay their last respects at a private family funeral.

Mrs Stone will leave Albury today to fly to Darwin and her daughter, Miss Susan Stone, will fly there from Adelaide.



● Terry Stone with his mother Pam in Albury when she was awarded an OAM. Terry died in East Timor late on Monday night.

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OZ Lotto

Draw 388

34 2 40 11 38 24 4 14

Total prize pool: \$2,984,712.51
First division prize pool: \$1,193,885.00



● Mrs Stone with her sons Shane, left, and Terry who was murdered in Dili.

Terry 'loved by all who knew him'

By HOWARD JONES

TERRY Stone had a heart of gold, his brother Shane said from Darwin yesterday.

Mr Shane Stone, a former Northern Territory Chief Minister and federal Liberal Party president, said his brother had moved north last year to make a new start in life after working as a solid plasterer.

He was East Timor manager of the Darwin-based company Wastemaster, a Brambles subsidiary.

"Terry was one of those ordinary blokes you have the privilege of knowing who make the world go round," he said.

"He had a heart of gold and was loved by all who knew him.

"He was such a thoroughly decent man."

Mr Stone said the tragedy of East Timor had touched many people.

"I do not want the people of East Timor to be judged by what has happened to Terry – he wouldn't want that," he said.

"Terry never regretted going to Dili.

"For him it was a fresh start, a new beginning.

"He wanted to be part of building new opportunities in a new nation."

Mr Stone said his brother had made many friends in the East Timorese community in Darwin and in East Timor.

According to Mrs Pam Stone, Terry had taken boots back to some of his East Timorese friends.

Stabbing a crime of passion: police

DILI: UN police in East Timor said yesterday they had arrested two suspects in the murder of Terry Stone in the capital, Dili.

He was allegedly stabbed in the back by the estranged husband and brother of his East Timorese girlfriend on Monday, UN police spokesman Mr Luis Carrilho said.

He later died in a nearby UN hospital.

"This was a crime of passion," Mr Carrilho said.

There are several thousand foreign nationals living in Dili in the run-up to East Timor's first democratic election on August 30.

The majority work for the transitional UN administration, non-governmental organisations or have set up businesses.

The economic disparity between the foreign and much-poorer local communities has led to an increase in crime.

In April, an Australian teacher was mugged and stabbed as she left a restaurant.

A week later, the Australian wife of independence leader Mr Xanana Gusmao was stabbed and punched by a gang of thieves who attempted to rob her as she left a beach.

However, UN police maintain crime levels are low compared to other countries.