

= Brian Booth =

Brian Charles Booth ( born 19 October 1933 ) is a former Australian cricketer who played in 29 Tests from 1961 to 1966 , and 93 first @-@ class matches for New South Wales . He captained Australia for two Tests during the 1965 ? 66 Ashes series while regular captain Bob Simpson was absent due to illness and injury . Booth was a graceful right @-@ handed middle order batsman at No. 4 or 5 , and occasionally bowled right arm medium pace or off spin . He had an inclination to use his feet to charge spin bowlers . Booth was known for his sportsmanship on the field and often invoked Christianity while discussing ethics and sport .

Born near the New South Wales country town of Bathurst , Booth moved to Sydney in 1952 and played in the grade cricket competition while training to become a teacher . He made his first @-@ class debut for the New South Wales cricket team and came to prominence in dramatic circumstances in his second match , against the touring Englishmen in 1954 ? 55 . Due to late withdrawals , Booth was selected at late notice and had to be called from work on the morning of the match . After arriving after the start of the match , he scored 74 following a batting collapse . Booth struggled to make an impression early in his career and missed a season to train and with the Australian field hockey team for the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne . Upon returning to first @-@ class cricket in 1957 ? 58 , he held down a regular position in the state team while the Test players were touring overseas . Booth gradually progressed and gained selection on the 1959 ? 60 Australian Second XI tour to New Zealand .

Booth was selected for the Australian team that toured England in 1961 and played in the final two Tests . Upon his return to Australia , Booth made two centuries in the 1962 ? 63 home Test series against England , establishing himself in the Test team . He made two further centuries the following summer against South Africa and was named the Australian player of the year . Following the retirement of Richie Benaud , Booth was appointed vice @-@ captain under Simpson as Australia embarked on a successful 1964 tour of England , which saw the retention of the Ashes . Booth played his final Test series in 1965 ? 66 against England , captaining Australia in the First and Third Tests because Simpson was sidelined with a broken wrist and chickenpox respectively . The First Test was drawn but Australia fell to its first innings defeat in almost ten years in the Third Test . As he was also in a form slump , Booth was dropped as the Australian selectors made mass changes , ending his career . In retirement , Booth returned to his teaching duties and served as an Anglican lay @-@ preacher . He was inducted into the Cricket NSW Hall of Fame in 2014 .

= = Early years = =

The son of " Snowy " Booth , a market gardener and talented country cricketer , Booth was born in Perthville , located 9 km ( 5 @. @ 6 mi ) outside the New South Wales regional town of Bathurst . His father hung pictures of Don Bradman and Stan McCabe on the wall and told him that " these are the two greatest living cricketers " . Booth represented Bathurst High School at the age of 13 and played first grade cricket in Bathurst at 15 . He was selected for a New South Wales youth country side at the age of just 14 . In 1950 , Booth represented New South Wales Country against a combined Sydney team , and moved to St. George to play on a weekly basis two years later . He made the first grade team at the age of 19 and began a four @-@ year course at Sydney Teachers College . Booth also played hockey in Perthville and began playing for St. George upon his arrival in Sydney .

Booth made his first @-@ class debut for New South Wales against Queensland in the 1954 ? 55 Sheffield Shield . He made a duck in the first innings before adding 19 in the second . New South Wales won , but Booth was dropped when the Test players returned from international duty . Booth was recalled a month later for a match against Len Hutton 's English cricket team at the Sydney Cricket Ground . Arthur Morris and Bill Watson had to withdraw at late notice and Booth was asked to play , having already started his day 's work as a teacher at Hurlstone Agricultural College . He caught a train and arrived at the ground more than half an hour after the start of play , by which time New South Wales had collapsed to 3 / 12 . New South Wales fell further to 5 / 26 before Booth

came in with a borrowed cap and bat to join Peter Philpott . They put on an 83 @-@ run partnership , and Booth eventually finished the innings unbeaten on 74 as the hosts folded for 172 . Booth made a duck in the second innings and took his maiden first @-@ class wicket as New South Wales defeated Hutton 's men . It was only the tourists ' second loss for the campaign , and the last match in Booth 's debut season .

Booth had a low key season in 1955 ? 56 , struggling to find a regular position in the New South Wales team . As there were no international matches during the summer , the Test players were available for the whole campaign . He played in six matches and had few opportunities , managing only 157 runs at 31 @.@ 40 , passing fifty on only one occasion . New South Wales went on to claim a hat @-@ trick of Sheffield Shield titles .

Booth was selected for the New South Wales hockey team in 1955 and toured New Zealand in 1956 . Good performances on this tour led to his selection in the Australian Olympic squad for the 1956 Summer Olympics , but he had an anxious wait following media claims that he had received out of pocket expenses for playing cricket , which would make him a professional and therefore ineligible to participate in the Olympics . Eventually , Booth and fellow first @-@ class cricketers Ian Dick and Maurice Foley were cleared to play for Australia . Booth then missed the 1956 ? 57 Sheffield Shield season because he was part of the Australian field hockey team that finished fifth at the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne . Booth was selected as an inside left , but was not utilised in any of Australia 's matches . In his absence , New South Wales won a fourth consecutive domestic title .

In 1957 ? 58 , the Australian Test team toured South Africa during the southern hemisphere summer , opening up opportunities in the Shield competition back in Australia . Booth established himself at first @-@ class level with 503 runs at 50 @.@ 30 . After scoring two fifties , he broke through for his maiden first @-@ class century against the Victorian Bushrangers at the Sydney Cricket Ground , in his last match of the season . He put on a partnership of 325 with future Test team @-@ mate Norm O 'Neill in fewer than four hours . It was his fifteenth first @-@ class match , and helped his state secure a fifth successive title with a ten @-@ wicket win over their arch @-@ rivals . With the Test players returning to Australia in 1958 ? 59 , Booth again faced more competition for places . He struggled , playing six matches and aggregating only 190 runs at 31 @.@ 66 . He only had six innings for the entire season , and in his only opportunity against Peter May 's touring Englishmen , he made a duck . Booth passed 50 on two occasions during the season , making 75 and 85 . In one high @-@ scoring match against South Australia , he took 0 / 97 with his part @-@ time off spin .

= = First @-@ class consolidation = =

The national team toured the Indian subcontinent during the 1959 ? 60 Australian season , opening up more vacancies at a domestic level . Booth had a strong first @-@ class season , scoring 718 runs at 65 @.@ 27 with two centuries to place third on the run scoring aggregates . He started the season with 168 as New South Wales defeated Queensland by an innings before scoring 177 two matches later in an innings win over South Australia . His state completed a seventh Sheffield Shield triumph in succession .

Booth 's performances saw him selected for a second choice Australian team that toured New Zealand under the captaincy of Ian Craig . He scored 105 in his first innings for his country , in a victory over Auckland . Booth scored 184 runs at 30 @.@ 66 and took three wickets at 25 @.@ 00 in the four international matches against New Zealand . Booth considered retiring after the season , feeling that the time needed for first @-@ class cricket was impinging on his work as a lay preacher and a Christian youth worker .

Booth brought himself into contention for the Test selection with a series of strong displays in 1960 ? 61 . He aggregated 981 runs at an average of 65 @.@ 40 , with three centuries . Only five players scored more runs , all at lower averages . Two of the centuries were in combined Australian XI matches at the end of the season for expected Test squad members . In a match against the Tasmanian Tigers , Booth struck a breezy 100 from 104 balls in 90 minutes of batting . Another

highlight was an 87 against the touring West Indies , helping New South Wales to complete an innings win . Booth 's productivity helped his state to another Sheffield Shield win .

= = Test career = =

Booth was then selected for the Ashes tour of England in 1961 ; he and Victorian opening batsmen Bill Lawry , the two uncapped batsmen in the team , were regarded as the last two players chosen . Booth quickly gained a reputation for his attention to physical fitness . He led the Australians in their morning exercises during the sea voyage , which captain Richie Benaud made optional . After scoring 37 and seven against Worcestershire in his first match on English soil , Booth broke through for his first century for Australia , scoring 113 against Cambridge University in his fifth match in England . He made 59 against the Marylebone Cricket Club , but was overlooked for the first three Tests .

Booth scored 127 not out against Somerset , and in the next match against Lancashire , he was caught behind for 99 from the bowling of another Brian Booth . He played consistently , with two more half @-@ centuries to earn his debut in the Fourth Test at Old Trafford in place of Colin McDonald . The series was evenly poised at 1 ? 1 , and Australia batted first on a pitch that initially assisted fast bowling . The surface was tinged with green and England fielded a pace line @-@ up that included Brian Statham and Fred Trueman . Booth was struck in the torso by his first ball , a bouncer that did not rise as high as was expected . He managed to repel a spearing yorker on the second ball and compiled a battling 46 , the second highest score on the difficult pitch , featuring in a partnership of 46 ? the highest in Australia 's innings ? with Bill Lawry . Australia managed only 190 on the bowler @-@ friendly pitch . Booth only managed nine in the second innings before Australia retained the Ashes after an English collapse on the final day resulted in a 54 @-@ run win . In the drawn Fifth and final Test at The Oval , Booth came in with the score at 4 / 211 after the dismissal of O 'Neill for 117 . He featured in a 185 @-@ run partnership with Peter Burge . Booth was dismissed for 71 while attempting to loft the spin of Tony Lock over the infield , as captain Richie Benaud needed quick runs ; observers felt the need to attack cost Booth his maiden Test century . Booth added three more 70s in the closing tour matches before the team returned to Australia .

The 1961 ? 62 season was entirely a domestic season . Booth scored 507 runs at 42 @.@ 25 with two centuries , against Queensland and South Australia . He placed 13th on the run scoring aggregates , helping New South Wales to win its ninth consecutive Sheffield Shield .

After scoring 72 in the opening match of the season and adding 41 against the touring Englishmen for New South Wales , Booth retained his place in the Test team for the 1962 ? 63 Ashes series . He scored his maiden Test century in the First Test at The Gabba , compiling 112 in the first innings of a high scoring draw . Thirteen innings reached fifty , but Booth was the only player to reach three figures . English captain Ted Dexter attempted to shut down Booth 's scoring by employing leg theory . In the Second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground , Fred Titmus bowled outside leg stump with five men on the on side , but Booth completed consecutive centuries with 103 in the second innings . As a result of Dexter 's defensive field placings , Booth scored at only half the rate he managed in the First Test . Booth took six hours to reach triple figures and hit only four boundaries . His innings was not enough to prevent England from completing a seven @-@ wicket victory . Booth was unable to maintain his form for the rest of the season , with 34 and 77 in the Fourth Test in Adelaide being the only other times that he passed 20 . Australia won the Third Test , drawing the series , and Booth ended the series with 404 runs at 50 @.@ 50 . He added a further three fifties in the Sheffield Shield as Victoria ended New South Wales ' nine @-@ year winning streak .

Booth started the 1963 ? 64 season strongly . He scored centuries in his first two innings , recording 121 and 169 not out against Queensland and Western Australia respectively . In his rapid innings against Western Australia at the SCG , which took only 165 minutes , Booth reached 100 in 94 minutes during the second session of the day . In the lead @-@ up to the Tests , Booth scored 63 for his state against South Africa but was unable to prevent defeat . In the Tests , he began the

way he did in the previous season , with a century . Coming to the crease with Australia at 3 / 88 in the first innings of the First Test in Brisbane , Booth withstood an opening burst of bouncers from South African spearhead Peter Pollock . He went on to accumulate his Test best of 169 from 81 overs of batting , in a display that gained wide praise because of his elegant strokemaking . One newspaper proclaimed that his innings had " more Grace than the Princess of Monaco . " Ray Robinson said " it was a tailored innings , fit to be put on display in a showcase and unrumpled by a single chance " . South African skipper Trevor Goddard later said " We didn 't mind the leather chasing , when he played so charmingly " . Booth 's innings was the highlight of a match that was uneventful in terms of cricket but notorious for the no @-@ balling of Ian Meckiff . A broken finger sidelined Booth for a month and prevented him from playing in the Second Test , but he returned for the Third Test in Sydney , and began a sequence of 75 , 16 , 58 and 24 . He finished the series in the Fifth Test in his home town , top @-@ scoring in both of Australia 's innings , with 102 not out and 87 in a draw . It capped off a productive fortnight for Booth ; he had scored 162 not out against South Australia before the final Test . In four Tests , he aggregated 531 runs at 88 @.@ 50 . For the entire first @-@ class season , Booth had struck five centuries and totalled 1 @,@ 180 runs . According to Gideon Haigh , he had " played exquisitely " throughout the season , which was his career peak and saw him named the Australian Cricketer of the Year for 1963 ? 64 .

= = = Vice @-@ captaincy = = =

Captain Benaud retired at the end of the South Africa series ? he had already relinquished the leadership after the First Test ? and Booth was elevated to the vice @-@ captaincy under Bob Simpson for the 1964 tour of England . Along with Simpson and Lawry , Booth was one of three on @-@ tour selectors . Some observers felt that the personable Booth would have been more popular among the playing group than Simpson , while others thought that he would not have been hard @-@ nosed enough in pursuing his team 's competitive interest . While Simpson was known for being relentlessly hard @-@ nosed , he was also abrasive and sometimes irritated others by making derogatory comments towards teammates . Booth again ran daily fitness classes during the voyage , and on this occasion , Simpson made them compulsory for the players . Booth started the tour well , scoring 109 not out in his third match for the summer , against Surrey . He passed 50 three more times before the start of the Tests , when his form waned .

Booth failed to pass 20 in the first six innings of the Test series . With Australia 1 ? 0 up after three Tests , a draw in the Fourth Test was sufficient to retain the urn . Booth regained his touch with three scores beyond fifty in four innings leading up to the Fourth Test , including 132 against Middlesex . When the teams reconvened at Old Trafford for the Fourth Test , Booth made a " courtly " 98 in a 219 @-@ run partnership with Simpson . The Australians batted for more than two days to burn off any chance of an England victory . Booth then scored 193 not out , his highest for the summer , in Australia 's 7 / 315 declared against Yorkshire , setting up the tourists ' victory . He made 74 in the Fifth Test and ended the series with 210 runs at 42 @.@ 00 . Along with Simpson and Lawry , Booth was one of three Australians to accumulate more than 1 @,@ 500 first @-@ class runs for the English summer .

Three Tests against India and one against Pakistan lay ahead of Booth as the Australians visited the Indian subcontinent on the late @-@ 1964 voyage back to Australia . He had a mediocre time , passing fifty only once , with 74 in the Second Test at Mumbai 's Brabourne Stadium . That innings was terminated when Indian wicket @-@ keeper KS Indrajitsinhji fumbled a stumping opportunity ? the ball rolled back down the pitch . Despite breaking the stumps with his hand while the ball was not in close proximity , Indrajitsinhji 's appeal was upheld . According to Haigh , " It seemed like ten men [ one of the Australians was ill ] were pitted against thirteen [ eleven Indian players and two umpires ] " . Booth compiled 127 runs at 21 @.@ 17 and took the only three wickets of his Test career on the spin @-@ friendly subcontinental surfaces . He took 2 / 33 in the drawn Third Test in Calcutta , before capturing his final wicket in the second innings of the only Test against Pakistan in Karachi . At the time , cricket matches in Australia and England were typically interrupted by the Sunday rest day , and Booth used these for religious observances . However , this custom was not

observed on the subcontinent . Booth wanted to withdraw for personal reasons , but decided to play due to injuries and illnesses to other players . He made 57 in a Test against Pakistan in Melbourne upon arrival in Australia . It was the only home Test of the season before the hosts embarked upon a tour to the Caribbean . Booth scored 115 for his state against the Pakistanis and ended the Australian season with 327 runs at 46 @. @ 71 .

Australia arrived in the West Indies in 1964 ? 65 for five Tests against the emerging power of the 1960s , who were led by the hostile express pace bowling of Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith . After narrowly evading a bouncer at the start of his innings , Booth made a battling top @-@ score of 56 in the First Test loss at Sabina Park in Jamaica . He then made 117 in the Second Test at Port of Spain in Trinidad , an innings that included a stand of 228 with Bob Cowper , which helped Australia hang on for a draw . It was to be Booth 's last Test century , an innings he regarded as his " most satisfying " , having collected a series of bruises , on a ground with no sightscreen . Booth did not pass 40 in the last three Tests and ended with 234 runs at 29 @. @ 25 as Australia lost 2 ? 1 , their first series loss since the 1956 Ashes series and their first series loss against a team other than England , excluding a one @-@ off Test against Pakistan in 1956 . He had particular trouble with the pace of Griffith , and on one occasion , the paceman hit him on the nose before yorking him on the next ball ; Booth maintains that he did not see the ball . Booth added two more fifties in the four first @-@ class matches outside the Tests .

= = = Temporary captain = = =

At the start of the 1965 ? 66 season , Booth scored fifties in three consecutive matches , including an 80 against the MCC tourists . The 1965 @-@ 66 Ashes series saw Booth captain Australia for the first time in a Test . Simpson sustained a broken wrist , leaving Booth to lead the hosts in the First Test in Brisbane . Booth prepared quietly , leaving Simpson to handle the press . He won the toss and elected to bat ; fewer than two hours of play was possible on a rain @-@ shortened first day , and the second day was entirely washed out . Booth made only 16 before being caught and bowled by Fred Titmus on the third morning , but centuries to Lawry and debutant Doug Walters saw Australia declare at 6 / 443 . Booth rotated his spinners and dismissed the tourists for 280 ; the match ended in a draw with England at 3 / 186 after being forced to follow on . When Geoff Boycott pushed a ball from leg spinner Peter Philpott away with his hand , Booth refused to appeal for handling the ball .

After the drawn Second Test , Simpson contracted chickenpox , so Booth was again captain for the Third Test in front of his home crowd at the SCG . It was an extra burden , as Booth had made only 49 runs in the first two Tests ; his team @-@ mates felt that their captain had been too anxious following his struggles against Griffith in the Caribbean . However , there was to be no fairytale for Booth , who later admitted to being in psychological disarray ; he was unaware if the rolling done on the pitch after the toss was legal , and Philpott arrived late and ran onto the field just as play was starting .

England batted first and their openers immediately seized the initiative , putting on 234 for the first wicket in four hours . The tourists made 488 and Booth scored eight as Australia replied with 221 and were forced to follow on . He made 27 in the second innings before being bowled by David Allen as the hosts fell to an innings defeat . It was Australia 's biggest defeat at home since the Fourth Test of the 1911 ? 12 Ashes series when they lost by an innings and 225 runs . After the match , England captain Mike Smith told Booth that he expected to see him in the Fourth Test , but his Australian counterpart prophetically predicted his downfall .

With Australia 0 ? 1 down , the selectors took drastic action and dropped Booth , Cowper , Philpott , McKenzie and David Sincock . The revamped team won the next Test by an innings , and Booth never played for Australia again . If he had played another Test , Booth would have been eligible for the New South Wales Cricket Association 's retirement bonus of AUD50 a Test . Booth 's last five Test innings had netted only 84 runs . After the match , he received a letter from Don Bradman , then a member of the selection panel and the Australian Board of Control :

Never before have I written to a player to express my regret at his omission from the Australian XI .

In your case I am making an exception because I want you to know how much my colleagues and I disliked having to make this move . Captain one match and out of the side the next looks like ingratitude , but you understand the circumstances and will be the first to admit that your form has not been good .

Booth ended the first @-@ class season with 596 runs at 29 @.@ 80 , including four half @-@ centuries . He continued to play for New South Wales before retiring during the 1968 ? 69 season .

= = Final first @-@ class seasons = =

In the 1966 ? 67 Australian season , Booth scored 638 runs at 49 @.@ 07 , ranking fifth in the run @-@ scoring aggregates for the summer . He scored 149 against Queensland , and added four fifties , including two scores in the 90s . As a result , Booth was made vice @-@ captain of an Australian Second XI that toured New Zealand under the leadership of Les Favell , while the national team was in South Africa . After failing to pass 26 in his first five innings , Booth made his highest first @-@ class score ? 214 not out ? against Central Districts , and was Australia 's leading run @-@ scorer for the tour . After scoring only 62 runs in the first four innings in the opening three international matches against New Zealand , Booth made 179 in the fourth and final match .

Booth was less successful in his penultimate season in 1967 ? 68 , with only 426 runs at 23 @.@ 66 , including two half @-@ centuries , both against Victoria . A decision by administrators to introduce Sunday play into the Sheffield Shield ended his career , as he refused to make himself available for games that involved Sunday play . He played in only one match in his final season in 1968 ? 69 , scoring a duck and 15 as New South Wales lost to South Australia by three wickets . Booth continued to play grade cricket for the St. George club until 1976 ? 77 , leading the batting averages and aggregates in 1974 ? 75 . With 10 @,@ 674 runs at 45 @.@ 42 , he was fifth on the all @-@ time run @-@ scoring aggregates in Sydney grade competition at the time of his retirement , but has now dropped to ninth .

= = Style and the place of religion in sport = =

Brian Booth , that model of a man and of a batsman who tends to be under @-@ rated and forgotten because both he and his cricket were so blamelessly self @-@ effacing . Tall , upright , correct in method , ever @-@ patient , he repeated the hundred he had got at Brisbane , and so gave England a target to go for while all around him were failing .

? E.W. Swanton

Booth was regarded as an elegant batsman who had an erect stance at the crease . He was known for not hitting the ball hard but for having an easy and relaxed style . In hockey , a player is not allowed to lift his stick above the shoulders ; this background strengthened Booth 's forearms and wrists and enabled him to impart momentum on the ball without a large swing of the blade . Booth was particularly known for his late cut and his cover drive , which he played in a manner not dissimilar to Mark Waugh . He was known for his quick footwork against spin bowling and was rarely stumped , and he had the ability to change his batting tempo . Booth quickly got into position and typically moved onto the back foot to cover his stumps . A lean player , Booth stood 181 cm , weighed 66 kg and refrained from smoking , gambling and drinking . He was known for his efficient outfielding , and on the second day of the Second Test against the West Indies in Trinidad in 1964 ? 65 , he ran out Gary Sobers and Basil Butcher with strong throws from the outfield . Booth started as a part @-@ time leg spinner before converting to off spin .

Booth had a reputation for walking when he knew that he was out , without waiting for the umpire 's decision , and he was regarded as a player and leader of the highest principles . He was known for his record of instilling high standards of conduct into his players and prevented them from showing dissent towards unfavourable umpiring decisions . Robinson said that " if a prize were offered for fairplaymanship among Australia 's post @-@ war cricketers Brian Booth ought to win it hands down " . Lawry regarded Booth as one of the most gentlemanly cricketers that he knew .

A committed Christian , Booth is an Anglican lay @-@ preacher , and often invokes religious and

ethical arguments while talking about issues such as sportsmanship . Booth became intensely religious in the 1950s after befriending Pastor Roy Gray , a colleague in district cricket and a classmate at Sydney Teachers College . Gray challenged his friend 's faith , and Booth reflected that " Until that point , sport had really been my God " . During Booth 's career , the media made much of his religious convictions . After scoring his maiden Test century , Booth was asked whether he felt that God was with him . He replied in the affirmative , and the next day , a newspaper printed the headline " England can 't win . God is on Brian Booth 's side . "

Booth co -authored Cricket and Christianity with Paul White and wrote Hockey Fundamentals and Booth to Bat . In 1998 he wrote Sport and sportsmanship : a Christian perspective towards 2000 for the Australian Christian Forum on Education . He believed that the foundations of sport were courtesy and fairness , and he condemned the prevalence of verbal jousting in the modern game . During his career , Booth often spoke at religious functions in combination with other Christian cricketers . He appeared with the English Test opener Reverend David Sheppard at Sydney Town Hall and preached with Conrad Hunte in the West Indies .

Despite Booth 's views being more genteel than that of most of his team mates , there was minimal friction or disconnect . Early in his state career , Booth declined to join a Melbourne Cup gambling sweep organised by captain Keith Miller . However , Miller included Booth in the event by assigning him to look after the money . Booth said " That was typical of Keith . That he was able to turn something that might have been a problem into something positive , giving me a responsibility , making me feel part of the team . " He added " The boys just accepted me for what I was . If they didn 't share the strength of my convictions , they were quite happy for me to hold them . " Simpson said that Booth never attempted to impose his worldview on his teammates and never gave any inkling that he disapproved of their behaviour .

= = Outside cricket = =

After retirement , Booth resumed full time duties as a Sydney schoolmaster . He spent 12 years as a teacher in the government secondary schools of New South Wales before becoming an instructor in physical education at Sydney Teachers College in 1967 . Before retiring in 1989 , Booth served as the head of the Health and Human Movement Studies Department at the Sydney Institute of Education ? the successor of the STC ? for five years . In 1958 , he married Judith Williams , whom he met at STC . They had four daughters , the first being born in 1961 , and six grandchildren . Booth is the uncle of hammer thrower Brooke Krueger , who represented Australia at the 2006 Commonwealth Games .

In 1967 , Booth was appointed as the founding chairman of the Youth Advisory Council , a body that sought to address community issues such as hooliganism . Booth was made a life member of the New South Wales Cricket Association ( NSWCA ) in 1974 and served as a vice president for four years from 1973 ? 74 onwards . He was awarded life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club , the home of cricket . Booth has remained involved in grassroots cricket with St George . He has served as the club president among other positions on the executive committee , and currently serves as a coach . The Booth Saunders pavilion at the club 's home ground , Hurstville Oval , is jointly named in his honour . He is also the patron of the St George Randwick Men 's Hockey Club and the St George Women 's Hockey Club .

In the 1974 Federal Election , Booth gained preselection as the Liberal candidate for the Division of St George , standing against Science Minister William Morrison of the ruling Australian Labor Party in the federal election . The seat , which had changed hands at several elections in the past , was held by Morrison for Labor , who were returned to office . In 1982 , Booth was awarded a MBE for " services to the community and sport " .

In 2002 , Booth returned to the public spotlight when he condemned the sledging , or verbal intimidation tactics , that are used in modern cricket . He stated " I can 't remember in the games that I played in , I can 't ever remember being sledged , and I can 't ever remember sledging anybody " , in reference to Steve Waugh 's Australian team , which was perceived as being too hostile . In the Australian edition of the 2002 Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack , he wrote a chapter

titled " The Curse of Sledging " .

Booth was inducted into the Cricket NSW Hall of Fame in 2014 alongside Geoff Lawson and Margaret Peden .