

= Miles Copeland (Home and Away) =

Miles Copeland is a fictional character from the Australian Channel Seven soap opera Home and Away , played by Josh Quong Tart . He debuted on @-@ screen during the episode airing on 30 November 2007 . Ryley Mickle and Jackson Edwards played Miles in flashback sequences , showing him at ages three and eight years old respectively . During the early years of Home and Away , Sally Fletcher (Kate Ritchie) often spoke of an imaginary friend she called " Milco " . When Ritchie announced her departure from the soap , producers decided to introduce the real Milco , as regular character Miles Copeland . The development was described by the media as a " legacy storyline . " Quong Tart announced his departure from Home and Away in October 2011 . Miles departed on 23 November 2011 .

Miles is characterised as being charming and quick witted . His clothes often consist of board shorts and crumpled shirts , with his long hair , this gives him a trademark " beachy " look . Miles ' style changed in 2010 following Quong Tart 's break from the show . Upon returning to Home and Away , the actor had lost weight , grown a beard and cut his hair short . Producers were impressed with the changes and wrote them into the scripts . Miles is often seen consuming large amounts of food , which stems from his time spent living hungry on the streets . This was a character trait created by Quong Tart . Some viewers have written to Home and Away to complain about Miles ' eating habits .

Miles ' storylines have often centred on his friendships and romantic relationships with other characters . He has become a surrogate father to several teenagers , including Jai Fernandez (Jordan Rodrigues) and Melody Jones (Celeste Dodwell) . Miles and Kirsty Sutherland (Christie Hayes) had a long relationship together , during which they lost an unborn child . Kirsty eventually left town , ending their relationship . After sharing a long friendship , Miles and Leah Patterson @-@ Baker (Ada Nicodemou) entered into a romantic relationship in 2011 . Leah becomes pregnant and Miles proposes to her . Miles has earned a generally positive reception , while Quong Tart has been nominated for three Inside Soap Awards .

= = Creation and casting = =

The character of Miles was introduced to Home and Away in 2007 , as Sally Fletcher 's (Kate Ritchie) brother , whom she had always referred to as " Milco " . For twenty years , viewers had been led to assume Milco was just Sally 's imaginary friend . Channel Seven ran an on @-@ air promotion campaign , which promised viewers " a 20 @-@ year @-@ old mystery " would be solved . In the 2007 season finale , Miles mysteriously arrives in Summer Bay and writes " Milco " in the sand on the beach . Quong Tart was cast in the role of Miles . He previously starred in the Home and Away spin @-@ off headLand as Will Monk . In 2010 , Miles was briefly written out of the serial , while Quong Tart took a break from filming to rehearse for a play at the Sydney Opera House .

In October 2011 , Quong Tart announced his departure from Home and Away . Of his time in the show , Quong Tart told TV Week , " I couldn 't have imagined how much fun I would have and the friends I would make on Home and Away . Playing Miles was a gift . " Rebecca Davies from Digital Spy reported the actor had already filmed his final scenes , while TV Week said the way in which Miles leaves the Bay was being kept secret . Miles departed on 23 November 2011 .

= = Character development = =

= = = Characterisation and career = = =

Quong Tart told Channel 5 that he liked the way Miles looks at the world and revealed that he shared similarities with the character 's personality . Miles is often shown consuming large amounts of food on @-@ screen . Miles enjoys his food because of his time spent living hungry on the streets . This was a character choice made by Quong Tart . He thought it was important that viewers see

his eating habits , staying true to " representing human beings . " However , Quong Tart stated that it sometimes reached a " point where it might not be very pleasant to watch . " Viewers had written letters to Quong Tart requesting that Miles should stop " pigging out on television . "

In 2011 , Miles returns to Home and Away with a new look . Miles had lost weight , cut his hair short and grew a beard . Off @-@ screen Quong Tart had such a busy schedule that he lost weight . When he revealed his new look to producers , they were so impressed they decided to change Miles ' image , because it suited the storyline .

Miles secures employment as a teacher at Summer Bay High . One of his students , Ruby Buckton (Rebecca Breeds) , develops romantic feelings for him . Breeds said it was a " genuine teenage infatuation " and Ruby was drawn to Miles ' maturity rather than his physical appearance . Quong Tart said Miles was " taken back " when he was faced with accusations of kissing Ruby . He manages to prove they are false .

= = = Relationship with Kirsty Sutherland = = =

One of Miles ' first relationships is with Kirsty Sutherland (Christie Hayes) , which develops from a friendship . Miles is left upset over his foster child Jai Fernandez (Jordan Rodrigues) . His emotional state has an effect on Kirsty and she kisses him . Hayes told TV Week that as Kirsty 's feelings " take over in the moment " , Miles is left surprised because he had been harbouring feelings for her too . Hayes also said Miles did not want to scare Kirsty away and they agree to take their relationship slowly . Hayes later said that Miles and Kirsty 's relationship worked so well because " they talk about things and they 're mature about their relationship . " Kirsty decides that she needs to raise money for her husband Kane Phillips ' (Sam Atwell) trial . She secretly begins work as an escort behind Miles ' back . Hayes ' explained Kirsty was " terrified " that Miles would find out and hated lying to him , but " has no choice . " When Miles discovers the truth about Kirsty 's escorting , he feels " totally betrayed " and ends their relationship . However , when Kirsty nearly sleeps with a client , Miles comes to her aid . At this point Leah Patterson @-@ Baker (Ada Nicodemou) tries to kiss Miles , as the two previously shared a connection . However , Miles defends Kirsty when he learns Leah had argued with Kirsty over her deceit . The state of their relationship remained troubled , though Hayes correctly predicted the couple would reunite .

In 2009 Hayes quit the serial and her exit storyline played out the same year . It was initially left unclear what impact her departure would have on Miles ' . Their relationship deteriorates after Kirsty miscarries their unborn baby . Kirsty is left distraught and feels she has to move with her life without Miles . However , Kirsty does not tell Miles she is leaving and leaves him a goodbye letter . Speaking of the scenes , Hayes said " I don 't agree with what she did or how she did it but Kirsty in her warped , grieving mind thinks it 's best for everybody . " She felt that Kirsty 's actions were " horrible and selfish . " She also described her as " emotionally detached " and Miles would have tried to talk her out of leaving if he had been made aware of her departure . Viewers were not shown the full content of the goodbye letter . Hayes said it was good because she wrote a private goodbye letter to Quong Tart , and noted the personal element was best left between the two . After Miles chances of a family are again ruined , Miles loses control . He starts drinking and on one occasion he tries to kiss Leah . Producers decided to introduce a character named Rabbit (Mitzi Ruhlmann) , who " brings a little fun back into Miles ' life . " Though Rabbit later turns out to be his dead daughter and a figment of Miles ' imagination .

= = = Relationship with Leah Patterson @-@ Baker = = =

In 2008 , Miles and Leah develop feelings for one another . Nicodemou who plays Leah said her character becomes " freaked out " when she realises they share a connection . At this point in the series Leah was still grieving for her late husband Dan Baker (Tim Campbell) . Leah is so ashamed of herself she " cuts Miles off " . Nicodemou added that the characters " bonded straight away " because Miles understands Leah and has supported her when she needed help . However , Miles " cannot deny the attraction " which sends Leah further into denial . She decides she is not ready to

move on , Nicodemou said this was to respect Dan 's memory . Though , she concluded that Leah sees Miles as an " old sock you just feel comfortable with . "

In January 2011 , Quong Tart revealed Miles was set to have a new love interest . The actor said he found his character 's new romance intriguing and explained Miles is " more surprised than anyone that it happens . " A few months later , the Daily Star reported Miles would confess his love to Leah , who is shocked by the declaration . Miles is left wondering whether he has ruined their friendship by revealing his feelings to her . An insider told the paper , " Miles and Leah have both been unlucky in love so if they could find happiness together it would be pretty special . Leah is shocked but once the confession starts to sink in she wonders whether they could work as a couple . She begins to consider making a go of it with him . " Nicodemou explained that Leah and Miles have tried to get together in the past , but the timing has never been right for them . She later told RTÉ TEN that she thinks Miles and Leah are well suited and hoped they find happiness with each other . Miles and Leah discuss their situation and Leah decides to take the first step and kisses Miles to see if they have any chemistry . Nicodemou said once Leah realises she and Miles have chemistry , she decides to go for it and they begin dating .

In August 2011 , Leah discovers she is pregnant . She realises that she does not want a baby as she previously had a miscarriage , which made her decide not to have children again . Of the impact the storyline would have on Miles and Leah , Nicodemou said " It 's a really interesting storyline for them . It makes everything serious because things have been quite light , so it 's good to see that side of them . There are some rocky times ahead for them because there are differences of opinion . " A week later it was announced Miles would propose to Leah in a bid to " solidify " their relationship . Miles confides in Alf Stewart (Ray Meagher) about his plans and Quong Tart said Alf is very excited and encourages Miles . Of Miles ' decision to propose to Leah , Quong Tart said " They 've dated for a while and they know each other so well , and I think it 's just one of those things that makes sense . "

= = = Other relationships = = =

Miles starts a relationship with Shandi Palmer (Samantha Tolj) , TV Week described them as a " kooky " pairing . However their relationship was short @-@ lived , lasting only a number of weeks . Quong Tart said " It came and went like every romance in his life . " Miles " couldn 't believe his luck " with Shandi because of her attractive appearance . They were compatible because she was " beachy and hippy " and like Miles enjoyed to talk about the meaning of life . Miles drunkenly sleeps with Roo Stewart (Georgie Parker) , the next morning she reacts badly . A Home and Away spokesperson said Miles was one of the " nicest blokes in the Bay " and felt like a humiliated " idiot " .

In various storylines Miles has taken in teenagers without homes . Jai Fernandez (Jordan Rodrigues) is the first to be taken into Miles ' care . Miles knew Jai from the Boxing Day Tsunami in which they both lost their families . Rodrigues said that Jai is " angry at the world " because Miles " ditched " him in Phuket . Miles tries to help Jai because he realises that he is having a tough time at the refuge . Off @-@ screen Quong Tart mentored Rodrigues to improve his acting skill . He later takes in Melody Jones (Celeste Dodwell) , though she makes life hard for Miles by causing chaos at the school formal and running away to Melbourne . In the latter storyline Miles and Charlie Buckton (Esther Anderson) travel to Melbourne to search for Melody . The episodes marked the first time the cast had filmed in Melbourne . Location shoots took place at Queen Victoria Market , Docklands Studios Melbourne and St Kilda . Anderson told Inside Soap that " It 's a nice self @-@ contained little storyline " and described it as a treat for British and Irish viewers . She added that Melody ends up on the streets and Charlie and Miles fail to locate her straightaway . The situation leaves them feeling " vulnerable " and they kiss . Anderson opined the kiss was " a rebound thing " and they feel " awkward the following morning . "

Miles lets teenagers Nicole Franklin (Tessa James) and Romeo Smith (Luke Mitchell) , and adult character Marilyn Chambers (Emily Symons) move in with him . Together they form a new character unit , Meagher who plays Alf praised the dynamic . He said as none of them have external

relationships at the time , there was a " genuine caring for the well @-@ being of the other people in the house . "

= = Storylines = =

= = = Backstory = = =

Miles and his twin Sally initially lived together with their alcoholic father Aaron (Timothy Walter) and mother Diana . Aaron used to beat Diana , so she left him and took Sally with her . When Miles was eight years old , Aaron read that Diana and her new husband Derek Wilson had been killed in a boating accident . Aaron and Miles went to find Sally , but after seeing Sally was better off with the Fletcher family , they left . In the serial Sally constantly insisted her imaginary friend Milco was real , it was actually Miles she was thinking about , but no one believed Sally and her bullying foster brother Brian " Dodge " Forbes (Kelly Dingwall) eventually stopped her believing in him . Aaron died of alcohol @-@ related illness , so Miles became an English teacher . He married a woman called Louise and they had a daughter called Amber . They both died in the Boxing Day Tsunami whilst on holiday in Phuket . He then went on a downward spiral and became a homeless drifter .

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Miles turns up in Summer Bay and decides to stick around after he thinks it is a familiar setting . He has nowhere to live and is starving . Irene Roberts (Lynne McGranger) becomes annoyed with him for stealing food out of the bins , but Roman Harris (Conrad Coleby) takes pity on him and feeds him . He sees Sally on the beach and writes Milco in the sand . They later become friends and she feels like she has a close connection . He reveals his family 's death to be the reason why he became a drifter . He eventually reveals the truth to Sally , that he is Milco and her twin brother . After it sinks in she is delighted with this and they become close . Miles stays with her and one night forgets to lock the door . Johnny Cooper (Callan Mulvey) enters the house and stabs Sally , however she survives but he blames himself . He decides to get his life back on track and becomes an English teacher at the school . Aden Jefferies (Todd Lasance) initially gives him a hard time , but he is well liked after he and Ric Dalby (Mark Furze) arrange a leaving party for Sally , who has decided to move away . At the party Steven Matheson (Adam Willits) and Carly Morris (Sharyn Hodgson) are startled to meet the person they heard so much about whilst growing up .

Miles becomes the new owner of the caravan park . He becomes good friends with Leah and falls in love with her . She feels it is to soon after husband Dan 's death and does not feel the same , leaving him upset . Morag Bellingham (Cornelia Frances) then helps him track down Jai , a boy from Phuket whom he told he would help , but never did . He comes to live with Miles , their relationship is strained by Jai 's reluctance to trust him , eventually they become close . Religious Christine Jones (Elizabeth Alexander) later starts a campaign to have Miles removed from his job when she does not agree with his choice of book used for teaching . Morag later helps rid of Christine and saves his career . He lets Melody Jones stay with him , but she rebels and causes trouble for him with her new @-@ found bad attitude . He then has a brief relationship with Jazz Curtis (Rachel Gordon) .

He gives Kirsty a place to stay . They start a relationship and he falls in love with her , however he finds out she has been working as an escort to raise money for husband Kane Phillips ' (Sam Atwell) trial and throws her out . Melody becomes more wild and runaway from home , he tracks her down with the help of Charlie , who he shares a kiss with . He lets Melody leave to live in New Zealand with her mother . Kirsty returns with Kane who attacks him and he has to admit they were never together . After Trey Palmer (Luke Bracey) makes advances on Kirsty and Miles supports her , they reconcile . Trey tries to attack Kirsty , but Miles pushes him over , Miles is then under investigation for assault , later Trey drops the charges . Whilst out fishing Miles falls overboard and is nearly eaten by a shark , he discovers Lou De Bono 's (David Roberts) body in the process . He

promises to look after Nicole after Roman is sent to prison . Miles then decides he wants to try for a baby with Kirsty , she agrees but he is angry when he sees her taking the pill . She says he thought he would leave her , he reassures her this is not the case . Kirsty starts university studying teaching . He resents her for spending time at university with her new friends , he suspects she is having affair . Upon confrontation she admits she is actually pregnant . She is unhappy about it , but agrees to keep the baby . He breaks his promise of keeping the pregnancy a secret , Kirsty starts to feel more at ease about the baby . Kirsty has a series of fits causing her to miscarry . Their relationship becomes strained and Kirsty 's mother Shelley (Paula Forrest) convinces her to run away to the city with her . Miles is devastated she has left and becomes withdrawn from everyone .

After VJ Patterson (Felix Dean) is bullied by Riley Radcliffe (Tani Edgecombe) he goes to see his father Ian (Ben Simpson) but he laughs it off . Miles is attacked and beaten and presumes it was Ian . He later finds out it was in fact Riley and his friends . He tries to drag Riley to the police station but he breaks his wrist . Miles is arrested for assault . Ian blackmails him saying he will drop the charges for money , the police find out Ian was responsible for the injuries . However the newspapers published an article on Miles branding him a thug . Miles destroys a classroom and Gina Austin (Sonia Todd) forces him to take leave . He starts drinking heavily again , makes a pass at Leah and sleeps on the beach . Miles begins having visions of a girl called Rabbit , who tells him about future events . She convinces him to do good deeds . Miles becomes good friends with Elijah Johnson (Jay Laga 'aia) and he goes to Africa with him . On his return he is assaulted by Heath Braxton (Daniel Ewing) . He then gets drunk and kisses Roo Stewart (Georgie Parker) and wakes up next to her in the morning . He later confesses his love to Leah and they start a relationship . Elijah is initially annoyed , but they repair their friendship . Leah learns she is pregnant , which delights Miles . Leah is initially hesitant about going ahead with the pregnancy , but she and Miles talk and she decides to keep the baby . Miles proposes to Leah , but she turns him down , saying they are not ready . She later asks him to move in with her and VJ . Leah suffers a miscarriage , which devastates Miles . The couple struggle with their grief and Miles moves out . He and Leah later break up . Miles learns Elijah is still in love with Leah . Miles tells Marilyn that Sally has got him a teaching job in Thailand and he leaves the Summer Bay .

= = Reception = =

For his portrayal of Miles , Quong Tart was nominated for " Best Newcomer " at the 2008 Inside Soap Awards . The following year he received a nomination for " Best Actor " . At the 2011 Inside Soap Awards he was nominated for " Best Daytime Star " . The episode where Miles conquers his fear of water to save Jai Fernandez who feigns drowning earned Writer Sean Nash an Australian Writers ' Guild award nomination for " Best Television Serial " in 2009 . The episode featuring Miles finally letting go of his visions of Rabbit won the Australian Writers ' Guild Award in the same category the following year and was presented to the episode 's writer , Sam Meikle .

The week ahead of the serial 's airing , Mark Patrick of the Sun @-@ Herald said Milko , " an imaginary friend of one of the brats " was his favorite character . Michael Idato writing for The Sydney Morning Herald said Milko being not being imaginary seemed " ludicrous " . He said that Milko being revealed to be Miles , was Home and Away delivering a " plot twist equal to the genre 's best . " He opined that Miles ' " timely " arrival softened the blow of Sally 's departure . They said it was " a tender baton change that evokes memories of the iconic ' 80s soap Sons And Daughters " Idato later said Miles and Sally 's story was an example of " strong legacy storylines " Home and Away creates .

Ruth Deller of entertainment website Lowculture placed Miles at number nine on her best characters of February 2009 list . In July 2010 , she placed Miles second on her list of best soap characters . She spoke about how " ridiculous storylines " turn out to be great onscreen and referred to Miles 's visions of Rabbit , which she went on to praise . She said " Miles 's grief , his visions of Rabbit and his torment at everyone telling him she wasn 't real were devastating to watch , and this was a really interesting avenue to take one of the soap 's best @-@ loved characters down that could have spectacularly backfired , but instead , had people bawling their eyes out . " Holy Soap

have said that Miles 's most memorable moment is " When he found student Trey trying to kiss Kirsty , Miles pushed him and found his job as a teacher in jeopardy " . The website also named Miles as one their Summer Bay hunks . In 2010 , the Daily Record said that " poor old Miles " had a so many problems that " he was probably happier when everybody thought he was just sister Sally 's friend " . After Miles became involved with Shandi , they stated that true love " never ran smoothly in Summer Bay " and that with Shandi ; Miles got " a lot more than he first bargained for " . Australian television website Throng , said Miles looked completely different after Quong Tart lost weight . They said he looks " a lot older , thinner , has a new hair style and is sporting a dark beard ! "

Jaci Stephen of the Daily Mail criticised Home and Away for the amount of car accidents it features . When Miles nearly crashed his car , she asked if anyone in Summer Bay is capable of " sitting atop four wheels " without nearly getting killed . Stephen was not a fan of Miles ' long hair . When he returned in 2011 , she said " we can only hope that he ? s seen a hairdresser since his departure . " When he left the series , Sarah Ellis of Inside Soap said that Home and Away " won 't be the same without Miles ' shaggy barnet " . Laura Morgan of All About Soap said that she and her colleagues were " in mourning " over Miles ' exit . She added that they " sorely missed " him .