

From Milton Follies to Home and Away: a local star's journey to national TV

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All eyes will be on former Milton Follies performer Rocco Forrester-Sach tomorrow night (Tuesday, April 28) when he debuts on Home and Away.

Forrester-Sach looms as Summer Bay's "newest heartthrob" and the former local star appears as the Yabbie Creek Police Station's new recruit Richie Brezniak.

"Rookie Richie's enthusiasm is set to test the patience of Senior Constable Cash Newman, and off duty he is poised to make waves with Abby Fowler (Hailey Pinto)," Channel Seven said in a promo piece.

"Is Abby about to fall for the Bay's newest heartthrob?"

There will be a spike in the Home and Away ratings from the Milton-Ulladulla area on Tuesday April 28 at 7pm when the show airs.



Yabbie Creek police station welcomes a new recruit when Richie Brezniak (Rocco Forrester-Sach) joins the team. Picture Jeremy Greive

Forrester-Sach's creativity was honed early and [a connection with Milton Follies was made](#).

He is a previous Milton Follies scholarship winner.

At six years old Forrester-Sach started guitar lessons and continued his busking. His first role was in a musical at Ulladulla Public School as a reporter, and little Jack Horner when he was nine years old.

Forrester-Sach joined Milton Follies when he was 14 and starred as Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*.

He went on to appear in numerous productions in Milton-Ulladulla such as *Kiss Me Kate*, *Joseph and Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *West Side Story*.

Forrester-Sach also toured Sydney with LOUD! Theatre Company in their productions of *Suessical*, where he played General Genghis Khan Schmitz and Grinch and their production of *Footloose*, in which he played Willard Hewit.

In 2018, he moved to Sydney after receiving a scholarship to attend The McDonald College, a prestigious performing arts high school.

His talent was formally recognised in 2019/2020 when he was nominated for OnSTAGE, a showcase of the best individual drama performances from the New South Wales Higher School Certificate (HSC).

After several years of honing his craft in theatre and independent projects, Forrester-Sach moved into professional television in 2026,

A review of his early stage work described him as "highly charismatic" and praised his physical acting abilities.

In the footsteps of others

Many Australian performers who have appeared in either *Home and Away* or *Neighbours* have become globally recognised.

They are:

The Home and Away Alumni (Summer Bay)

Heath Ledger (Scott Irwin): The late Oscar winner played a bit of a "bad boy" love interest in 1997. It was one of his most significant early roles before moving to the US for *10 Things I Hate About You*.

Chris Hemsworth (Kim Hyde): While he did a tiny stint on *Neighbours*, his real start was as a series regular in *Summer Bay*. He played Kim for over 170 episodes before becoming Thor.

Naomi Watts (Julie Gibson): She had a recurring role in the early 90s. Interestingly, she is best friends with Nicole Kidman, who actually didn't do the soaps (she went straight into mini-series and film).

Isla Fisher (Shannon Reed): Before she was a comedic star in *Wedding Crashers*, she spent years as a mainstay of the Bay.

Simon Baker (James Healy): The *Mentalist* star appeared in the mid-90s before finding massive success on American television.

The Neighbours Alumni (Ramsay Street)

Margot Robbie (Donna Freedman): Before she was Barbie or Harley Quinn, she was the quirky Donna. She originally signed for only a few guest episodes but was so popular she stayed for three years.

Russell Crowe (Kenny Larkin): Long before Gladiator, Crowe had a brief four-episode stint in 1987 as a dodgy ex-con.

Guy Pearce (Mike Young): He was one of the "golden era" stars alongside Kylie and Jason. He made the jump to film in The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert and never looked back.

The Hemsworth Brothers: All three (Luke, Chris, and Liam) actually appeared on Neighbours, though Chris and Liam's roles were relatively minor compared to their later work.

Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan: The ultimate power couple. While Kylie is now a global pop icon, her role as Charlene the mechanic is still legendary in TV history.