

# Hit the snow with your tribe

By RACHEL OAKES-ASH

**Y**ou need only watch reality television to witness the human desire to divide into groups of like-minded folks.

Australian and New Zealand ski resorts understand our need to classify ourselves according to age, race, economic status, profession and lifestyle persuasion, ensuring that no one need ever ski with the wrong crowd again.

## Ski like a chick

**WOMEN** ski differently to men; apparently it's all in the hips.

Women's ski programs are designed for women by women.

With small groups guaranteeing personalised tuition, they provide a supportive environment to perfect your schuss and your tush. Most provide video analysis so you can see how you're looking.

Thredbo resort offers three day WHIP (Women's High Intensity Program) for \$659 including lift pass on July 29, August 5 and September 2.

Five-day programs cost \$929 and are held throughout August.

Perisher Blue offers a three-day program, creatively named the Women's Program, for intermediate and advanced skiers on August 9-11 and August 23-25. Coaching and mountain pass is \$597.

In Victoria, Falls Creek has the original Mim Sodergren Women's Program on August 1-5 for \$995 with five-day lift pass.

Mt Hotham L'Oréal Visible Results Women's Week, at \$759, includes a lift pass, welcome breakfast, massage, beauty session and pamper pack; it's on July 25 to 29.

Chooks (that's Kiwi-speak for "chicks") across the Tasman on New Zealand's North Island can enjoy Ladies Week at Whakapapa and Turoa ski fields. Choose between August 1-4, August 15-18 and September 5-8 for about \$252.



## SKI 2005

### Blokes only

IF the Speight's Ale sponsor isn't enough to get you to Men's Week at Whakapapa, the free muffins will.

It's a chick-free zone so the men can get amongst it. August 15-18, about \$250 per bloke.

### Teen tonic

CARDRONA is "fully sick" for teens. Phat Freeski and Phat

Freeride three-day camps for 13- to 17-year-olds run on July 12 and 19, and September 20 and 27, for about \$150 plus lift pass.

### Ageing disgracefully

FALLS Creek and Whakapapa cater for the more mature with their Over-50s Ski Week. Think cocktails and hilarity with four hours' tuition a day. Beginners welcome at Whakapapa August 22-26 and Falls Creek July 25-30.

### Disabled

FALLS Creek and Cardrona lead the field in Adaptive Ski-

ing for the disabled. Discounts are offered on ski passes for Disabled Skiing Association members. Individual and group lessons are popular, so book well in advance.

### Not so straight

THE award-winning St Moritz Grand Mercure on Lake Wakatipu, in NZ's Queenstown, is the setting for this year's Gay Ski Week. Rainbow is the new white from September 3 to 10.

Value Tours offers seven nights at St Moritz, four-day lift passes, and one night free

## FACT FILE

**MORE:** All bookings and details on any of the specialised programs are on the resort websites:

### Australia

www.mthotham.com.au  
www.falls creek.com.au  
www.perisherblue.com.au  
www.thredbo.com.au

### New Zealand

Coronet Peak: www.nzski.com/coronet  
Cardrona: www.cardrona.com  
Mt Ruapehu: Whakapapa (www.whakapapa.co.nz) and Turoa (www.turoa.co.nz) and

**DEALS:** Ski Max offer flight and accommodation packages within Australia and to New Zealand. 1300136997, www.skimax.com.au

skiing for \$951 plus air fares. Visit [www.gayskiweeknz.com](http://www.gayskiweeknz.com) for details; bookings on [www.valuetours.com.au](http://www.valuetours.com.au)

### Legal eagles

LOOKING for a lawyer? You'll find them in Thredbo on Saturday, August 20, for the annual lawyers' race and soiree.

With Volvo, Rossignol and Travelplan sponsoring, divorce lawyers will split hairs over finish-line statistics.

Don't want your competitor going home with all the loot.

### Slept in?

IF you're not a morning person, go for night skiing at Mt Hotham, Falls Creek, Thredbo and Perisher Blue. In NZ, it's Coronet Peak on Fridays and Saturdays. Lift prices vary.

### Men in uniform

SNOW white turns police blue and air-force grey at Mt Hotham this winter. The RAAF prove their skills on the ground, August 3-5; police from around the world gather on August 9-11.