



CHASING SNOWMEN

Where have all the hot men gone now that it's winter? They're all taking to the piste.

Stand in any lift queue at Australia's ski fields and count the ratio of men to women. You don't have to be a Waterhouse to know the odds fall in the girls' favour. When the temperatures drop and the snow starts falling, flocks of testosterone make the annual trek to the ski fields of New South Wales and Victoria.

We're not talking any shabby stock, either. The highest median weekly incomes on the last census night were recorded in Thredbo Village and Perisher during peak season. So grab your faux Prada jacket, slip on those Chanel goggles and get your single booty down to the snow in 2006.

Thredbo

Who: Think corporate high climbers who grew up in Daddy's ski lodge and drive flashy cars to show off their trust funds. Come apres time, you'll find them at the Thredbo Alpine Hotel Piano Bar sipping on top-shelf Scotch with Tim Bailey for snow kudos. For a more intimate experience, hit the

Après Bar at the Denman or The Lounge Bar pre dinner. Hardy types crowd the Keller till very, very late.

Go: Between 5 and 7 August when legal types descend upon Thredbo for the annual lawyer's ski weekend.

Sleepover: Act like a rock star and bed down in Thredbo's only five-star ski in and ski out accommodation at www.skiinskiout.com.au.

Visit: www.thredbo.com.au.

Perisher

Who: On average, there are three male snowboarders to every female snowboarder and you'll find most of them at Perisher. Don't expect any guy over 30 here. These are sick boarders (that's a good thing) in the twentysomething region. Think sexy iPod-clad, G-star, Burton-wearing buffed boys with low-riding pants.

Go: For burley beefcakes, *The Footy Show* broadcasts live from Perisher on 21 July.

Sleepover: Close to the action at Perisher Valley Hotel.

Visit: www.perisherblue.com.au.

Mt Hotham

Who: Hotham has its own airport, so grab the Leer jet and fly right in. This is black run territory, which means extreme skiers addicted to adrenaline. Translation: men who like to party without pretension. The only place in straight Australia where there's a queue for the men's toilets and none for the women's at The General Store pub. Prepare to dance on tables. Perennial bachelor Tom Williams has been spotted on Hotham's slopes.

Go: Men in RAAF uniforms play games mid August.

Sleepover: White Crystal Apartments www.stellarresorts.com.au.

Visit: www.hotham.com.au.

Falls Creek

Who: Twenty-eight bars filled with Melbourne males who know how to dress. Design types head to Milch for gourmet dining, arty types head downstairs to Glo cinema for lounge-style movie action and James Bond cocktails, while wannabes crowd the

fire pit at the Huski Lodge Produce Store. Hard core trippers like The Man for its cheap eats and live bands, and ski resort lifties and instructors head to the Frying Pan.

Go: Can be a bit too family-friendly, so stay away during school holidays.

Sleepover: Hang with media types at Huski Lodge www.huski.com.au.

Visit: www.falls creek.com.au.

Mt Buller

Who: This is Melbourne's weekend playground. It's home to the World Cup aerials and La Trobe University alpine campus, so expect elite athletes, student types and the obligatory Melbourne male in black. Doesn't matter where you drink because you'll end up at the Kooroora Hotel bar anyway.

Go: Weekend crowds provide the best mingling opportunities.

Sleepover: Easy ski access at Mt Buller Chalet, www.mtbullerchalet.com.au.

Visit: www.mtbuller.com.au.

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