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# Ski fields work

So, you're thinking about spending three to four months working in a ski resort? Well your dream is shared by thousands of others every year, but if you have the motivation, coupled with some experience, why not pursue your idea? It's certainly a different lifestyle for most, and although you'll probably spend every cent you earn on food, beer and a bed, you'll leave the melting slopes at the end of spring with memories to last a lifetime!

Australia's four largest ski season employers are detailed below. Apart from jobs out on the snow, there is quite a large variety of work in hospitality as well as other work that sometimes goes unnoticed, such as garbage collection and housekeeping.

If you love skiing, take note of the many staff benefits that are associated with working for one of the big four ski resorts.

First, a word of warning! Because of the relatively low altitude of Australian mountains and the strength of the Australian sun, even in winter, snow conditions can vary from day to day. Although resorts attempt to bridge the gap between what Mother Nature drops from the sky and what is required to keep customers happy on the slopes via snow making machinery, your employment is subject to both snow and weather conditions.

## Perisher Blue

### Where is it?

Perisher Blue is one of the two main ski resorts in NSW serviced by the town of Jindabyne. It is located in the Snowy Mountains approximately 450 km south-west of Sydney.

### Getting there

#### By car

Jindabyne is an easy two hour drive from Canberra, and a five to six hour drive from Sydney via Canberra and Cooma, with over

half the journey on dual carriageway roads. It is around seven hours from Melbourne by road.

### **By air**

Qantas flies from Sydney or Melbourne to the Snowy Mountains Airport which is 50 km, or around 45 minutes drive, from Jindabyne. Alternatively, you can fly to Canberra airport with Qantas, and then drive a comfortable two hours to Jindabyne. Taxi transfers and car rental facilities are available from both airports. The Snow Express shuttle meets all flights to and from the Snowy Mountains Airport but seat bookings on 1800 679 754 are essential.

### **By bus**

Greyhound Pioneer operates a service between Canberra and Jindabyne. For information regarding services and prices call 13 20 30.

## **About the resort**

Perisher Blue operates the largest ski resort in the Southern Hemisphere. It is located within the Kosciuszko National Park in the beautiful Snowy Mountains region of southern NSW. Perisher Blue boasts four ski areas, 1250 ha of ski terrain, 50 lifts and the capacity to lift 47,600 snow sliders per hour. The company also operates the Perisher Valley Hotel, a four and a half star boutique 'on snow' hotel, the Station Resort Hotel, located 5 km from Jindabyne, and the Skitube underground railway which transports several hundred thousand passengers each season from below the snow line to the Perisher Blue and Blue Cow ski areas.

## **Type of work**

### **Ski Area**

The Ski Area is the largest department in the resort and is responsible for everything from the lower slopes to the highest peaks. Lift operators are the face of the resort and maintain the ramps, mazes, and loading and unloading areas while ensuring guest safety on the chairlift system. Ski patrollers are trained for all medical emergencies,



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to respond to injuries on the mountain and to police dangerous skiing and snowboarding. Groomer drivers maintain and groom all runs throughout the resort, while snowmakers work through the night to create the best quality surface of snow. Transport drivers are responsible for operating shuttle buses, distributing goods delivered to the resort and assisting car park attendants with traffic control, security and greeting guests who choose to drive to the resort. Trail crew are involved in a variety of roles from helping prepare for on-mountain events to ensuring all building surrounds are clear of snow and ice. Lift fitters, mechanics and electricians are responsible for the regular servicing and emergency repairs of all Perisher Blue lifts, vehicles, machinery and property.

### **Concourse**

Concourse attendants work at the three Skitube buildings and assist guests with platform safety, crowd control, ticket auditing, luggage handling and information about the resort.

### **Ski and Snowboard School**

With over 300 qualified professionals employed each season, the Ski and Snowboard School runs a Hiring Clinic for everyone interested in becoming a Perisher Blue instructor. If you are certified and have experience instructing in Australia, the Ski and Snowboard School also employs qualified child-care assistants, crèche attendants and ticket sellers.

### **Guest Services**

Mountain hosts ensure a great guest experience by providing information about the resort and services available as well as taking guests on guided tours across the mountains.

### **Perisher Blue Snow Holidays**

Reservation consultants assist guests with accommodation information and bookings from their office in Jindabyne.

### **Hotels, Food and Beverage Department**

The Perisher Valley Hotel has 31 rooms, a cocktail bar, nightclub and a fine dining restaurant. The Station Resort Hotel sleeps 1500 guests in 254 rooms, and includes a food court, char grill and pizza station, nightclub and bars. The Food and Beverage Department

is based at Blue Cow Mountain and services food and beverage outlets throughout the resort. Positions available include cocktail and bar attendants, cellar attendants, butchers, bakers, chefs a la carte, breakfast chefs, chefs for Mexican, Italian and Asian styles, preparation and short order cooks, kitchenhands, disc jockeys, food servers, table attendants, cashiers, front office receptionists and reservationists, night auditors, porters, head housekeepers, room attendants, night cleaners, laundry attendants, stores people.

### **Ticket sellers**

Ticket sellers are the front line customer service staff, who assist guests to find the ticket package that best suits their needs.

### **Skitube staff**

Train drivers are responsible for transporting passengers on the underground railway from Bullock's Flat (outside Jindabyne) to Perisher Valley and Blue Cow Mountain.

## **Accommodation and benefits for staff**

Clean, warm and reasonably priced accommodation is available on the mountain, at The Station Resort and in the township of Jindabyne.

Staff benefits include:

- a staff season pass (retail value \$1200); an administration fee applies
- free skiing at Perisher, Smiggins, Blue Cow and Guthega
- subsidised staff accommodation
- free ski/snowboard lessons
- a 20% discount in food and retail outlets
- discounted ski/snowboard hire
- employee recognition program
- uniforms for all guest contact and outdoor staff
- season passes for dependants after completion of five consecutive seasons of service
- long service awards after 10, 20 and 30 years of service.

## Contact details

Written applications should be stapled in the top left hand corner (don't send your application in a folder). Your covering letter should clearly state your first two choices of position in order of preference. Your resume should include references (copies only). Allow an additional day for mail to reach Perisher Valley.

Mail your resume marked 'Winter Application' to: Human Resources Manager, Perisher Blue Pty Limited, PO Box 42, Perisher Valley NSW 2624. You can also apply online at: [www.perisherblue.com.au/summer/employment/apply.html](http://www.perisherblue.com.au/summer/employment/apply.html)

All employment offers are subject to favourable snow and weather conditions. The season begins mid June and ends mid October. There is no guarantee of employment for the entire winter season.

## Thredbo

### Where is it?

Thredbo is situated on the Alpine Way 33 km south of Jindabyne in the Snowy Mountains of NSW.

### About the resort

Thredbo boasts the longest vertical ski drop in Australia at 672 m and the longest run at 5.5 km. The resort is in the valley and this can mean that the village is wet and slushy though the snow higher up may be quite good. The chairlifts run up out from the village. The village has a European feel including an after-dark apré-ski fun atmosphere.

### Getting there

Thredbo is an easy five to six hour drive from Sydney and seven hours from Melbourne via the scenic Kosciuszko Alpine Way. The nearest commercial airport is at Cooma, 85 km from Thredbo, where transfers or car hire is available. Qantas flies from Sydney. Alternatively, Greyhound Pioneer operates a daily bus service to Thredbo from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane via Canberra.

Wayward Bus operates a Sydney to Melbourne service via the Kosciuszko Alpine Way.

## **Working at Thredbo**

### **General positions**

Reservations sales agents are needed from mid March until the end of August. Call centre staff are required for booking accommodation on the computer reservations system for Thredbo Village. Previous travel agent, reservations or sales experience is required, and applicants must be enthusiastic, friendly and service orientated.

Ticket sellers are front-line customer service staff who are required to sell lift and ski school tickets. This work involves accurately balancing all transactions including cash and credit cards. Previous cash handling experience is an advantage. The position requires excellent customer service skills.

Lift attendants assist customers on and off ski lifts in a safe manner, run T-bars and assist customers on chairlifts. An ability to ski/snowboard is an advantage. There is a minimum age of 21 years for applicants. Ticket checkers check lift tickets and ID passes of all customers and staff, control lift queues and undertake general duties.

Snow groomers groom and maintain all ski runs and T-bar tracks, and drive grooming machines. Previous experience is desirable and a mechanical knowledge is an advantage. A truck licence is required.

Ski patrollers provide immediate first aid to injured skiers, erect and maintain safety equipment and carry out speed control and slope duties. Applicants must hold an advanced level first aid certificate (minimum requirement) and be able to handle an akja. Previous patrol experience is essential. Minimum age 21 years.

Rental staff fit and issue ski hire equipment and rental clothing to customers. Staff are responsible for accurate and legible completion of rental forms and maintenance of equipment. Prior sales and cash handling experience is an advantage. Technical sales staff must have knowledge of and an ability to sell skis, ski boots, snowboards and boots.

Ski repair technicians must be specialised in all areas of ski and snowboard repair. Previous experience in the use of Montana equipment is an advantage.

Garbage collectors are needed for the resort. Applicants should be enthusiastic people willing to work outdoors during the day collecting refuse and recycling products from all areas of the village, and assisting with compacting the refuse. Attention to occupational health and safety issues is essential as is a current drivers licence.

Bus drivers are needed to drive 45 seat Leyland buses for a shuttle service and 20 seat Toyota Coaster buses around the village to pick up guests. A class MR licence is required and previous experience is an advantage. A friendly and outgoing nature is essential.

### **Hotel positions**

Room attendants are required for cleaning and restocking of hotel rooms and apartments. A friendly and courteous disposition is required. Cleaners are required to clean and maintain hotel public areas, restaurants and bars. Some heavy lifting is required. Night and day shifts are available. Applicants must be friendly, reliable and courteous and hold a current drivers licence.

Reservations sales agents are needed to operate the computer accommodation bookings for Thredbo Village. Previous travel agent, reservations or sales experience is required. Applicants must be enthusiastic, friendly and service orientated.

Reception and reservations staff greet hotel guests on arrival, and check-in and check-out guests from their hotel or apartment using the Fidelio computer system. Previous hotel front office and cash handling experience is essential.

Demi chefs and commis chefs are required to cook in the bistro and a la carte restaurants. Health and safety awareness is essential. Kitchenhands are needed to assist in the resort kitchens, including cleaning, washing up and storing orders. Some heavy work is involved. Health and safety awareness is essential.

Food and beverage staff are needed including waiting and bar staff to assist in a la carte or bistro services and/or one of the five bars operated by the hotel. Keen, well presented, enthusiastic people with previous experience and references are sought and an

RSA Certificate is required. Cellar and stores staff to carry out food stock rotation and issuing to various outlets. Previous experience in beer reticulation and stock handling is essential. Some heavy lifting may be required.

### **Ski/Snowboard instructors**

Generally a person must be a class three or higher standard skier/snowboarder. Apart from technical experience, instructors are required to be well groomed, polite, friendly, able to communicate in a confident and enthusiastic manner, and willing to improve their skills.

Each ski resort has an Instructors' Clinic at the beginning of the season, usually in June. Therefore, a person interested in instructing must choose the resort at which he or she wishes to work and attend that resort's Instructors' Clinic. Contact Thredbo about their Instructors' Clinic via email at: [recruitment@thredbo.com.au](mailto:recruitment@thredbo.com.au). Leave plenty of time to make arrangements.

### **Accommodation for staff**

Housing can be provided in Jindabyne, the service town for the ski resorts. Apartments are fully furnished and self-contained with kitchens and laundry facilities.

### **Contact details**

Contact the address below and request an application. Post applications to: Kosciuszko Thredbo Personnel Department, PO Box 92, Thredbo Alpine Village NSW 2625. Enquiries can be emailed to: [recruitment@thredbo.com.au](mailto:recruitment@thredbo.com.au). Interviews are usually conducted in May of each year in Thredbo and Sydney.

## **Mt Buller**

### **Where is it?**

Mt Buller is located in the Victorian Alps north-east of Melbourne via Yarra Glen, Yea and Mansfield.

## Getting there

It is a three and a half hour drive from Melbourne with coaches departing daily from Melbourne.

## About the resort

The resort offers 26 lifts for downhill skiing with runs for beginners up to expert level. The village is above the snowline and offers a range of restaurants and activities to see visitors through 'white out' days.

## Type of work

Opportunities exist for bar staff, housekeepers, ski technicians, bussers (table clearers), kitchen hands, snow groomers, cashiers, lift attendants, snow makers, chefs, porters, ticket sellers, child-care workers, receptionists, waiters, cooks, retail sales staff, assistant front office staff, ski and snowboarding instructors.

## Accommodation and benefits for staff

Full-time employees may be eligible for subsidised staff housing. All accommodation is shared with two to four other workers. Some lodges offer full board, with others providing cooking facilities. The cost of rent varies according to the type of housing, with bed only charged at \$60 to \$100 per week and full board costing \$155 per week.

Staff who are employed full-time for the season, even if employed on casual rates, receive complimentary ski lift season passes. In addition, returning staff who have worked full-time the season before receive five complimentary half-price day tickets. Those who worked full-time for the previous two seasons receive complimentary ski lift season passes for their spouse or bona fide de facto and dependant children, or ten half price day tickets. Seasonal staff are also eligible for a 20% discount at all food and beverage outlets, discounts at the Lifesavers Tubing Park and Ski School lessons.

Staff who are normally employed for less than 38 hours per week receive a complimentary ski lift pass only when required to carry out assigned duties for the purpose of access.

## Conditions of work

Employees are expected to work a five-day week with the opportunity for additional hours, however this is subject to snow conditions. Staff are paid weekly via direct deposit into a bank account. Rates of pay vary in accordance with qualifications and experience.

It is strongly advised that all employees have a current ambulance subscription and it is mandatory for all overseas employees to have their own travel insurance.

## Contact details

For more information concerning employment at Mt Buller contact: Buller Ski Lifts, PO Box 1, Mt Buller VIC 3723. Tel: (03) 5777 6052. Fax : (03) 5777 6027. Email: [hr@skibuller.com.au](mailto:hr@skibuller.com.au).

## Falls Creek

### Where is it?

Falls Creek is in Victoria approximately four and a half hours drive from Melbourne via the Hume Highway. Take the turn off at the Milawa sign post and proceed to Mount Beauty. Falls Creek is about another 30 kms from Mount Beauty and found on the boundary of the Bogong High Plains.

### Getting there

Found in the Victorian Alps it is easily accessible from Melbourne and Albury. Coachs run daily from both Melbourne and Albury.

### About the resort

With over 450 ha of fantastic ski terrain Falls Creek is Victoria's largest ski resort. These natural resources are combined with the largest snow making system in Victoria. The friendly village is located above the snowline with spectacular views of the Bogong and Spion Kopje mountains and the Rocky Valley Dam. A helicopter service links Mt Hotham and Falls Creek resorts.

## **Working at Falls Creek**

Falls Creek Ski Lifts operates:

- the ski lifts
- the Snowsport School
- ticket sales
- the snow making system
- the grooming department
- Cloud 9 Restaurant
- Frying Pan Inn Hotel
- Dicky Knees Cafe
- the Falls Creek Reservation Centre.

Staff are recruited for the operations listed above. All other businesses within the resort recruit their own staff and need to be contacted directly.

## **Accommodation for staff**

Discounted on-mountain shared accommodation is available, but some staff stay off the mountain in the township of Mt Beauty.

## **Contact details**

Email: [employment@falls creek.net](mailto:employment@falls creek.net)