

issue 21 // Jan 9 - 22 // 2010

powderlife

NISEKO ニセコ

www.powderlife.com

2010:
A POWDER
ODYSSEY



BOOM TOWN

tourist numbers skyrocket

PARTY PICS

new year's eve 09/10

BUCKING GOOD

wild bill's gourmet tex-mex

Niseko's powder lifestyle magazine fresh every two weeks

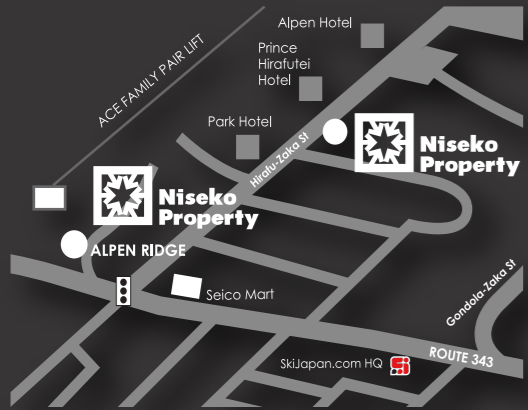


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cover 2010: A Powder Odyssey skier Christie Dowling photo Glen Claydon

the vale niseko



WBCG

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Niseko Consulting

NEW OFFICE: Upper Hirafu, Sasayaki-zaka St. (just below Wild Bill's)



editor's note *issue 21 january 9, 2010*



NISEKO is going off! The snow has been amazing and visitor numbers are way up on the slow season last year. You just need to look down the main street to get an idea of how many holidaymakers are here, or up at the ski mountain to see what looks like hundreds of ants weaving their way down the mountain.

The restaurants and bars are packed and we're finding it hard to get bookings at most of our favourites. The high-end restaurants like Kamimura and J-Sekka are packed out with big spenders here to enjoy more than just the ski slopes and experience everything Niseko has to offer.

For those who are here for the deep powder, we can't recommend highly enough the value of attending the free backcountry safety seminars presented by Black Diamond Lodge at the Yuki Bar, Tuesdays from 6pm. Details on page 29.

In this issue we've got a heap of info and articles to fill you in on what's going on in Niseko. We welcome in 2010 with a collection of photos from New Years Eve - Niseko style. Also check out our 'A Thousand Words' page for a collection of the great powder shots our local photographers have been snapping. Back to food and we introduce you to five of the best big hearty breakfasts to fuel up for a day on the mountain, and we let you in on a little local secret - Wild Bill's (yes, the nighttime hotspot) does some of the best Tex-Mex food you'll ever eat!

It's a great time to be in Niseko. Enjoy!

Kristian Lund, *Powderlife* Managing Editor kris@powderlife.com

ニセコは最盛期を迎えました!雪のコンディションも最高で、観光客は去年の今頃を上回る数です。とにかくリゾートの街中を見回すか、山頂に上がって'蟻の行列'のように滑り降りていく人々を見れば、街がどれだけ賑わっているか一目瞭然です。

レストランやバーも多忙で予約を取ることが困難な状況です。スキー場以外にもニセコで体験できる全てを楽しもうと、高級レストランであるカミムラやJセッカでは財布の紐をゆるめたお客様でいっぱいです。

本誌の29ページに掲載していますが、火曜日に無料バックカントリー安全対策セミナー(場所:ユキバー、提供:ブラックダイヤモンド)が行われます。ディーブパウダーをお好みでしたら、この機会に是非足をお運びください。

今号もニセコ情報満載です。2010年の始まりにふさわしく、年末のニセコのパーティーシーンをたくさん掲載しています。また、『A Thousand Words』ページでは地元写真家が撮り集めた雪山写真を楽しめず。そのほか、滑る前の燃料となると飛びつきり美味しい朝食を提供する5店舗を紹介しています。朝食以外ではナイトスポットで有名なワイルドビルズの最高のテックス・メックス(テキサス風メキシコ料理)がオススメ!

とにかく今シーズンのニセコは最高!思いっきり楽しんでください!

Photo: Paul Malandain

SEKKA DINING

SEKKA Dining is an experience in modern international cuisine fusing Hokkaido's fresh seasonal fish, herbs, vegetables and meats with admired culinary traditions from around the world.

DINNER 18:00~22:00 (LO) T: 21-5022



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Cultivate your knowledge of Japan's best sakes and the world's finest single malts at the Maki Saki Lounge. Perfect for fire-side drinks after dinner as the snowflakes drift down.

DRINKS 14:00~ LATE T: 21-3070



SEKKA DELI

Get set for the day ahead with Sekka's famous house made Granola or wile away the afternoon with the delicious Hokkaido flavours of a SEKKA Deli lunch. Ready to eat or takeaway immediately if there are pressing engagements on the slopes.

BREAKFAST 7:00~21:00 T: 21-3088



HERMOSA

Chida-sensei and his team provide the ultimate in relaxation and recovery with their traditional massage techniques, perfect for refreshing body and mind after a day on the slopes. Call and reserve your session, whether to ease the toll of a day in deep powder or as a simple luxury on your Niseko holiday.

BY APPOINTMENT 15:00~24:00 T: 21-6133

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WWW.EZOVIEWS.COM



fluff light news and stuff from around town

Snow story

JUST before Powderlife went to press, another storm system was approaching Niseko, with blizzard conditions forecast to see us well into the New Year. However, unlike many resorts around the world, large portions of the prodigious amounts of snow we receive are not directly from storm fronts. Much of our powder arrives from what locals call the 'Niseko Express', the NW air stream coming out of Siberia. This very cold, dry air warms a little and picks up moisture as it crosses the mild waters of the Sea of Japan. As it hits the coastal ranges along the western coast of Hokkaido, snow falls almost continuously, and sometimes, if the synoptic situation remains stable, for weeks on end. The past couple of seasons have been average as far as accumulative snowfall – but compared to the rest of the world, even an average 11m Niseko winter is still impressive. With the promising sustained snowfalls we've already had early in 09/10, there's every chance we could be in for a cracking season. After all, when the Niseko Express stops in more frequently – like we've already seen this winter – we can be treated to as much as 15m of powder in a season. – The Don



Photo: Glen Claydon



DINERS got a belly full of curry and an eyeful of belly at the grand opening of the **Taj Mahal Indian restaurant** in Izumikyō's **Tancho Centre**. Owner Daniel Mansukhani – who owns six other Taj Mahal restaurants in Hokkaido – put on an all-you-can-eat buffet fit for Gandhi himself, with a side serving of belly dancers to keep the eyes well-fed. But remember, after few more of these delicious buffets, you might soon be doing a little belly dance of your own!



Conveniently located with Niseko Physio in Australia House, opposite the Seicomart; right in the heart of the village.

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Professional sports and relaxation massage by highly experienced, professional masseuses. Niseko Massage will soothe your tired muscles and revitalise your body and mind. Appointments are preferred but not essential.

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Our sessions

From deep and strong sports massages to gentle relaxation styles, we can cater the strength of your massage to your individual requirements.

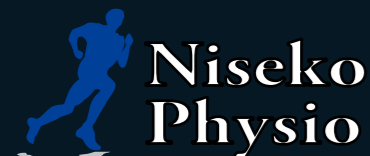
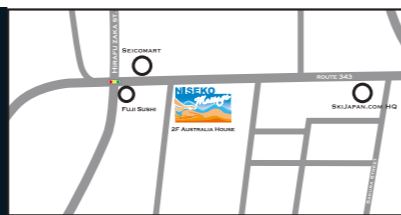
90 minute, full body oil massage: ¥11,000
Early Bird Price: ¥8,000

60 minute full body oil massage: ¥8,000
Early Bird price: ¥6,000

45 minute express full body massage ¥7,000
Early Bird price: ¥5,000

30 minute express full body massage ¥5,000
Early Bird price: ¥3,500

Beautifully presented gift voucher cards are also available.
Credit cards accepted



Physiotherapy is also available

Niseko snow report fresh faces



NEW independent daily video snow report *The Daily Flake* is keeping a lens on what's falling from the sky in Niseko this season. Behind the mic is former *Niseko Powder TV* presenter and Oz network TV personality, Christie Dowling (main pic), backed up behind the scenes by snow buddy Angela Hampton. Christie says, "We're out there every day taking a snapshot of the entire resort, from village life to skiing life to après life." And joining bubbly Samara Tanton over at *Hanazono TV* this year is Haruka Ito. Malaysian-born Haruka-chan speaks fluent Japanese and won a Hanazono competition called 'The Best Winter of Your Life' to get the gig. The way the snow has been falling it looks like it could be the best winter of everyone's life this season!

Catch both *The Daily Flake* and *Hanazono TV* as well as *Powderlife's* daily snow report and forecasts at www.powderlife.com/niseko-snow-report.

East meets West for classic concert

LOCAL Taiko drummers will keep the beat when the internationally renowned Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) comes to town this month. The ACO and the dynamic Yutei Taiko Serve Association Drummers will team up at Kutchan Concert Hall on January 15 and 16 (7pm), followed by a January 17 gig at Hanazono 308 (7pm). They will also play a private show for VIPs at The Hilton at Niseko Village. Featuring scores from Vivaldi, Bach, Mozart and more, the concerts are part of the new Niseko Winter Music Festival from January 15-17, created by the ACO's artistic director, feisty violinist and avid skier, Richard Tognetti. "When we found out that one of the best Taiko drumming groups worked in Kutchan, we pounced," he said. "The Taiko drummers will be an exciting, inspiring addition because traditional Taiko drumming is very strong ceremonial music." For ticket sales in Japan call 03 5467 0081, and from Australia call 1800 444 444.



**Powderlife* and The Hilton are giving away a double pass to the private Niseko Village show on January 14, including dinner at The Hilton and a meet and greet with the performers. Email ed@powderlife.com and tell us what piece of classical music best suits Niseko (eg: Vivaldi's Four Seasons).

niseko news *tourist numbers booming*

By Matthew Thomas

NISEKO is this season bustling with guests, following an unseasonably slow 08/09 winter.

Holiday management companies have announced that bookings are up about 30 per cent on last season. Hokkaido Tracks added that the Christmas-New Year period was at around 75-80 per cent occupancy, while Chinese-New Year in mid-February is 'as close to 100 per cent full as you can get'. HT says the big agencies are still bringing in plenty of Australians, but say the Aussies are 'plateauing'. It's Southeast Asia – led by Hong Kong, then Singapore and China – that is a burgeoning market, possibly able to 'overtake the Australian market in coming years'. Asian domestics Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia also have more of a presence in Niseko this year.

The Vale Niseko has 'barely a spare bed' over the Christmas-New Year holidays, and only a handful of availabilities in January. Early and late February stats are much the same for The Vale Niseko, but for Chinese New Year the hotel – which is in its first year – is completely booked out, and has had inquiries from around three times its capacity.

Nisade says Hong Kong and Singapore tourists combined already outnumber Australians, however Aussies still make up the biggest single nationality.

Meanwhile, it seems holidaymakers are more afflu-



BUSTLING... There are as many people on the streets as there are on the hill. Photo: Paul Malandain.

ent and spending more in Niseko, too. Although there have been many new bars and restaurants open in Hirafu this season to spread the crowds out, booking ahead is still a must, and many vendors have reached capacity night after night. Some have even experienced

some of their best patronage in years.

An anonymous source also revealed 'the cream of the crop' of celebrities were visiting Niseko this season – with one client so high profile they required armed guards to escort them around the village.

Competition heats up at Hanazono

HANAZONO is once again the place to be for competitions this season. The Stomping Ground, Niseko's No. 1 locale for park riding, will host a massive selection of rail, air and style comps throughout the season, which are bound to attract some of the best skiers and boarders from Japan and around the world. Under the banner of the 'Hanazono Freestyle Comp', there will be monthly competitions all season. This winter's fierce competition already kicked off on New Year's Eve with the thrills and spills of the Hanazono Rail Jam, and to follow is the airborne antics of Hanazono Big Air competition on January 16. The popular Kissmark Cup and Hokkaido Half Pipe competitions also return this season on January 30 and 31 respectively. In February, competition continues with the ups and downs of the Hanazono Half Pipe on the 13th, then on March 22 are the tricks and sticks of the Hanazono Slope Style.

For more information, check Hanazono's events page at <http://www.skihanazono.com/global/en/hanazono-resort/hanazono-events>.



Photo: Niseko Photography

Burton in Niseko

BURTON team riders will arrive in Niseko for the Burton Mountain Festival, based at Niseko Village from January 9-17.

Every day from 1pm-3pm the public can ride alongside – or try and keep up with – Burton's Japanese team riders.

Along with opening and closing parties (January 9 and 16), party with the Burton team at Black Diamond Lodge at Higashiyama on January 13 from 4pm-9pm.

There will also be learn to ride programs, a create your own board contest, yoga lessons, early morning fresh tracks and photo sessions with pro photographers.

Some activities are restricted to Hilton Burton package guests. **For more information check:**

www.burtonmountainfestival.com.



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in the loop *your guide to what's on*

SAT 9 **Burton Mountain Festival Kick Off Party**
 パートン マウンテンフェスティバル

The week-long Burton Mountain Festival kicks off at Niseko Village with a party at Ezo Pub.

スノーボードブランドのバイオニアBURTONが、パウダーの聖地ニセコビレッジで1月9日から17日の9日間に渡ってお届けするビッグイベント!

start: 8pm-12pm
 contact: 03-641-69431
 www.burtonmountainfestival.com

SUN 10 **Japanese Cultural Tours in Kutchan**
 日本文化体験ツアー倶知安

Take a tour of Japanese culture and experience Kutchan's cultural heritage on a 4.5 hour bus tour of cultural attractions and demonstrations.

ゴンドラ早期運行(7:00~8:20の特別運行)を行います。誰も滑っていないゲレンデをお楽しみください。

start: 3-7.30pm (reserve by 11am)
 cost: ¥3000(dinner included)
 www.niseko.co.jp/plat/ 0136-23-0222

MON 11 **Girls Night Out @ Paddy McGinty's Irish Pub**
 レディースナイト @パディーマクギンティーズ

¥300 for a draft beer, wine and sparkling wine, house spirits or soft drinks.

ドラフトビール、赤白ワイン、スパークリングワイン、スピリット、ソフトドリンクを300円にて女性限定で提供いたします。

start: 6pm-9pm
 contact: 0136-55-8020



Mon 11th - Paddy's Girls Night Out

TUE 12 **Famous Tuesday BBQ Night @ blo*blo gyoza bar**
 BBQ ナイト @ blo*blo gyoza bar

This week enjoy Australian grain fed 250gm rump. (Vege option available) Plate of BBQ and crisp delicious salad with drink for 1500yen!

今週のBBQはビックキランブステーキ! (ベジタリアンのメニューあり) 1500円にて、ステーキとサラダ、そして1ドリンクが付きま。

start: 6pm
 contact: 0136-22-1269
 www.blowhardallyear.com



Tue 12th - Tuesday blo*blo BBQ Night

WED 13 **BURTON On Snow Party @ Black Diamond Lodge**
 パートン オンスノーパーティー @ Black DiamondLodge

Park Jam Session with Burton Japanese riders and DJ Fat Jon and DJ Seboo playing cool tunes. Free event open to everyone.

パートンチームライダーも参加する、パークジャムセッション。DJ FatJonとDJ Sebooがクールなサウンドを聞かせます。参加は誰でも可能です。

start: 4pm
 contact: 0136-44-1144
 www.burtonmountainfestival.com

FRI 14 **Early Morning Gondola @ Niseko Village**
 アーリーモーニングゴンドラ @ ニセコビレッジ

Enjoy early morning first tracks before the slopes open to the public. Part of the Burton Mountain Festival. Jan 11, 14, 16.

誰よりも早く通常営業前のゴンドラにて、ファーストトラックを刻もう。運がよければ、ノートラックのディーブパウダーに出会えるかも。11, 14, 16日。

start: 8am - 8.20am
 contact: 03 6416 9431
 www.burtonmountainfestival.com

SAT 15 **Martin Luther King's Birthday @ blo*blo gyoza bar**
 コカコーラデーCoca-Cola @ blo*blo gyoza bar

Celebrate the great man's birth. Coca-Cola became a company on this day in 1889, so house spirits and coke only ¥400 all night.

ビックガイマーティンの誕生日は、コカコーラデー! ハウススピリットにコーラを混ぜて、400円にて提供いたします。

start: 6pm
 contact: 0136-22-1269
 www.blowhardallyear.com

SUN 16 **Toshi Arimoto (Piano) Trio @ Half Note**
 有本紀 (ピアノ) トリオ @ Half Note

One of top pianists from Sapporo, Toshi Arimoto, is playing variety of Jazz standard numbers. Enjoy his swinging piano trio sound!

札幌から若手ナンバー1のピアニスト、有本紀がジャズスタンダードの数をこなします。スイング感たっぷりのピアノトリオ演奏をお楽しみください。

start: 9pm
 contact: 0136-23-2727
 www.nisekofullnote.com/halfnote.html

TUE 17 **Niseko Music Festival 2010 @ Hanazono308**
 ニセコ 冬の音楽祭 @Hanazono308

Enjoy the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the world-renowned Japanese harpist Naoko Yoshino, and members of the local taiko drummers.

記念すべき今年の音楽祭には、オーストラリア室内管弦楽団の他、ハープ奏者の吉野直子氏、地元のおこっちゃん羊蹄太鼓保存会鼓流が参加し、盛り上げます。

start: 7pm 3000yen (seats non-reserved)
 contact: 0136-21-2551
 www.nisekotourism.com

WED 18 **Early morning run @ Niseko Grand Hirafu**
 アーリーモーニング @ グランドヒラフ

From January 12 to February 14 the Ace Quad opens half an hour early at 8am. Enjoy first tracks before anyone else does! ¥500.

朝一番のノートラックバーンを滑ろう! あなたが狙うのはパウダー? それとも、グルーミング?

start: 8am - 8.20am Jan 12- Feb 14
 contact: 0136-22-0109
 www.grand-hirafu.jp



Thu 20th - Ladies Night @ Java

WED 19 **GOKON @ restaurant & wine bar Dragon**
 合コン @ ドラゴン

Dating party (ask your Japanese friend what a Gokon party is!). Delicious food and drink. Reservations essential. Maximum 15 people.

おいしい料理とおいしいお酒、そしておいしい出会い! 食事、乾杯ドリンク付、男女15名限定のスペシャルナイト。事前チケット購入をお願いいたします。

start: 7pm
 price: ¥2500 boys ¥2000 girls
 contact: 0136-21-7700 / 090-6260-1634



KUTCHAN CULTURAL TOUR - JAN10

IT might be hard to drag yourself away from the mountain with all this powder around, but you're in Japan so it would be a crime not to take a day off for a local cultural tour.

This 4.5-hour bus tour will take you to various cultural attractions in Kutchan and give you an opportunity to participate in traditional activities including the Japanese tea ceremony.

There is also an 'iaido' (sword martial arts) demonstration, a taiko drum performance, and a tour of the local sake brewery - and yes, there's tasting available! The tour finishes off with a traditional Japanese sushi and sukiyaki dinner.

The tour is ¥3000 for adults and ¥1500 for children under 12 (incl. dinner). Reservations essential. The tour ends in Kutchan so you will need to find your own way back by taxi or the free Kutchan Night Go bus.

Call 0136 23 0222 to book (and book early!).

THU 20 **Ladies Night @ Java Bar**
 レディースナイト @ Java Bar

Complimentary champagne for ladies on arrival. Enjoy our array of cocktails.

ウェルカムシャンペンのサービス。数あるJavaオリジナルカクテルをお楽しみください。

start: 6pm
 contact: 0136-23-0788
 www.niseko-info.com/javabar

SAT 22 **Red Bar DJ Friday Night Event @ Red Bar**
 DJ フライデーナイト @RED Bar

Local DJ play some cool tunes. ¥1000 entry fee with one drink included.

エントリー1000円ドリンクつき。

start: 10pm
 contact: 0136-22-6687



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SNAP

Powderlife hits the mountain to ask skiers and snowboarders about their favourite snow items to use on the slopes of Niseko...



Midori and Lizzy, from Kutchan and Australia, like their snowboard and goggles respectively – Midori because her board just got waxed and is great on powder days, and Lizzie because her pink goggles were a present from her beloved beau.



It's all about the simple things in life for Hiromi and Aki from Kanazawa, on Japan's main island, Honshu. Hiromi loves her inner gloves because they were ¥100 and still warm. Aki's socks are warm, have grip on the bottom, and keep her big toe separate from the little ones.



Toshi says he needs his gloves because it's freezing cold in Hirafu, and his hands might fall off without them, while Daniel's favourite snow item is his neck warmer, which he always seems to forget! Aiden's favourite item is Toshi's fluoro orange pants (each to their own, we suppose!)

InSki's Wipeout of the Week

NASTY wipeouts don't just discriminate to wild 20-something blokes who throw caution into the wind. Even kids take their fair share of spills. In this shot, young shredder Rowan from Hong Kong spent a pleasant morning with his family riding Hirafu, and being photographed by Niseko Photography. Unfortunately on the last run of the day the gutsy little tike decided to do a run through the park, and ended up eating a substantial serving of rail and breaking a rib. No matter your age, it's always the way, doing yourself a mischief on the last run of the day. For taking a hit but bouncing right back, Rowan wins a helmet thanks to InSki and Powderlife. Entering this competition is simple. Send a hi-res wipeout pic with a short blurb to ed@powderlife.com. If yours gets published, you win a helmet. Powderlife can't wait to see all your stacks, so start sending them in! Until then, may all your wipeouts be public, excessive and captured on film!



INSKI



Aussie Emma loves getting rugged up in her jacket because the hoodie looks like she is wearing a 'small, furry animal' on her head. Close mate Amy likes the braces on her pants because they 'stop snow from getting in her bum'!



Mum and Dad Satoko and Hiroshi, from Chiba (next to Tokyo), like the bright-coloured clothes their kids wear because it makes them easier to spot on the hill. Young Yoshiki, 7, and his big brother Koki, 10, prefer their skis, and beanies from the Hakuba Olympics.



For five Christmases, Jolly Sato-san has worked for Grand Hirafu as Santa Claus, handing out chocolates to kiddies on the mountain. The Santa suit may not be as warm as normal ski gear, but Sato-san's big heart keeps him nice and toasty.

Mountain Style

IN this edition's Mountain Style, it's easy to see that the The Nose knows. This smooth criminal was snapped by Powderlife recently, and we found it curious that he only wanted to be known as 'Mr Nose'. Probably because he is in hiding from authorities after breaking the style crime of Pimping It Too Much Whilst On The Hill. Fugitive Nose-san – pronounced 'no-say' – apparently hails from Chiba (near Tokyo), and is a huge fan of Japanese clothing brand Inhabitant, because they make 'cool and colourful' gear. Plus his friends work at the company and get him good deals - he ain't no mug. With Oakley goggles, a Head board, Airwalk gloves and Burton boots to top off his on-mountain disguise, we think Mr Nose has sniffed out the perfect crime.



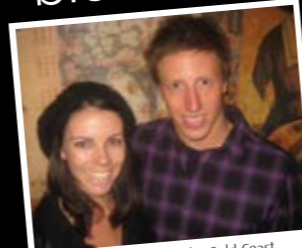
FLASH

It was all about pole dancing at blo*blo's season opener. And what sort of mag would we be if we didn't cover the biggest party of the year, New Year's Eve?!



New Years Eve 2010!

blo*blo bar's season starter



Shelley and Drew from the Gold Coast traded Surfers Paradise nightclubbing for some pole dancing at the season opener of one of Niseko's oldest and best-loved bars.



Party animals Alex, Scotty, Dylan and Row – aka Dinosaur, Kermit, Felix and Bunny – all donned some inconspicuous disguises for their night out at blo*blo.



blo*blo owner Nic samples some of his own warm hospitality, celebrating the reopening of the popular nightclub alongside revellers who came to check out the additions.



Marty, Murray, Rachel and Emi squeezed into a packed out blo*blo to suss out the labyrinth-like, Asian-influenced bar's quirky new décor and renovations.



Close mates Ashley, Baz, Clinton, Ellesse, Matty and Bailey found themselves a quiet little corner to enjoy a few drinks, a chat and a closer inspection of blo*blo's wallpaper :)

Pics: Niseko Photography

meet the locals

introducing niseko ski resort staff

By Kisato Kurihara



PROPERT MANAGER Chris

name Chris Holmes age 35 hometown South London time in niseko 18 months ski/board? Board how long have you been boarding Two seasons why did you come to niseko For work and I wanted to check out the north favourite... food Katsudon, and Dennis' slow-cooked pork! restaurant China Table bar Any, depends on the company run Somewhere on Kurodake - can't remember, because I was lost at the time how long will you be in Niseko A few more years... best niseko secret Probably the summer what is your life philosophy When giving is a joy, anything else is a bonus



LIFTIE Nomu

名前 クリス ホームズ 年齢35歳 出身地 サウスロンドン ニセコに来たどのくらい? 18ヶ月 スキーヤー? スノーボーダー? スノーボード スキー、スノーボード 2シーズン 目 なぜニセコに来た? 新潟より北に行った事がなかったから、見てみたかった お気に入りの... 食べ物? カツ丼と Dennisの煮込みポーク レストランは? China table バーは? その時の気分によってバーを選んでます。コースは? 黒岳のどこか、以前行って遭難しましたが... この後のニセコにいたい予定? あと、数年間はいたい ニセコの秘密? ニセコの夏 人生観、モットーは? 人に幸せを与えれば、必ず自分にボーナスが帰ってくる、言いたいことを言うだけじゃなく人の意見も聞き入れる... なかなか難しいですね

name Takayuki Nomura age 25 hometown Ehime (on Shikoku island) time in niseko 1 month ski/board? Snowboard how long have you been skiing for? Three years why did you come to niseko? My friend told me how good Niseko is favourite... food Rice restaurant Joyful bar Izakaya restaurants onsen Dougo Onsen ski run I'm still looking for my favourite how long will you be in niseko? Five months niseko secret? I want to know can anyone tell me?! what's your life philosophy? You only live life once, so do the things you want to do



SKI PATROL Masa

名前 ノムラ タカユキ 年齢25歳 出身地 愛媛県 ニセコに来てどのくらい? 一ヶ月 スキーヤー? スノーボーダー? スノーボード スキー、スノーボード 3年 なぜニセコに来た? 友人の勧めでお気に入りの... 食べ物? 白飯 レストランは? ジョイフルバーは? 居酒屋です 温泉は? 道後温泉 コースは? 模様中 この後のニセコにいたい予定? 5ヶ月 海外のスキー場で行ってみたい所は? アルプス山脈 ニセコの秘密? 僕も知りたいです。誰か教えてください! 人生観、モットーは? 人生一回、やりたいことはやってみる。仕事をしながら幸せを感じるとき? 晴れた朝に山頂からの景色を眺めているとき。

name Masahiko Tagami age 38 hometown Ishikawa (near Nagano) time in niseko Three years ski/board? Both (skiing at work) how long have you been skiing for? 30 years why did you come to niseko? It's cooler than my home favourite... food Rice from Ohashi farm restaurant Cafe Del Sol bar Sprout in Kutchan onsen Koikawa Onsen ski run Super Course how long will you be in niseko? Until it gets warm in Niseko from climate change niseko secret? There are really fast Mamachari bicycles to ride in summer time in Niseko what's your life philosophy? Life is a journey

名前 タガミ マサヒコ 年齢38歳 出身地 石川県 ニセコに来てどのくらい? 3年 スキーヤー? スノーボーダー? 仕事ではスキー スキー、スノーボード 30年 なぜニセコに来た? 温暖化対策に、涼しいところへ お気に入りの... 食べ物? 大橋農園の米 レストランは? デルソーレ バーは? スプラウト 温泉は? 鯉川温泉 コースは? スーパーコース この後のニセコにいたい予定? ニセコが温暖化で暑くなるまでは 海外のスキー場で行ってみたい所は? ス페인 ニセコの秘密? 夏にめちゃくちゃ早いママチャリの人がいる 人生観、モットーは? 旅 仕事をしながら幸せを感じるとき? 一日けが人が出なかったと

in focus

with Toki-san from Niseko 343

IF you're talking skiing and Niseko, they don't come much better than Toki-san. He's been coming here for over 20 years, coached Olympic skiers, skis with a snowboard on each foot, and now runs Hirafu retail and hire shop, Niseko 343...



When and why did you come to Niseko?

For over 20 years I came here every winter, and moved here three years ago to be closer to my work.

What was Niseko like when you first arrived here?

There were no foreigners in Niseko 20 years ago, and although snowboarding was getting popular in Japan, skiing was still preferred. Rather than going out at night, people preferred to stay in their lodges or guest houses and drink sake with the lodge staff. The seasons were much longer, with powder snow from the end of November to early April. There was also two times more snow than there is now - in one season we had 1m of fresh snow in a single night.

What was your life like before you came to Niseko?

In my home town of Kuromatsu Nai I was teaching sports to children as part of the Kids for Youth program.

What do you do in the warmer months?

I work in the shop during summer time as well. I actually prefer summer to winter because it is less busy and I have time to do my own things. I enjoy going running around Mt. Yotei and visiting an onsen afterwards to relax at the end of the day.

You've been involved in skiing at an Olympic level. Tell us about that...

I went to the Torino Olympics in 2006 as the freestyle mogul coach for the Japanese international team. The Olympics was a great experience - it's totally different from world cups or world titles because it's a game between the all countries.

We hear you organise skiing/snowboarding competitions in Niseko?

I am involved in the Super Bumps Niseko Cup, which is held in early April every year. I raced in the competition for the first seven years before retiring from racing, however I am still involved in the organisation of the competitions. When I see the young skiers trying their hardest, I can share their highs and lows and it reminds me of when I was young and competing myself.

We're told you ski with a snowboard on each foot?

I first tried it as a joke, but when you actually get used to the feeling of the wide boards as skis you can handle it. I enjoyed riding the powder on the boards in the morning - it was an amazing feeling, like surfing on the powder. And I can get terrific speed!

What is it that you think makes Niseko special?

The great snow, of course! Also, the ski fields are close to the village and easy to access.

What do you think needs to happen to make Niseko even better than it is now?

The local people don't come to ski at the resorts anymore, so they should come back again.

What are your top 3 tips for visitors to Niseko?

1. Do lots of skiing.
2. Try night skiing.
3. Snow shovel early in the morning - so I don't have to do it!

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five of the best big brekkies



1 Vale Bar & Grill

Breakfast tastes so much better in ski (or snowboard) boots, with a view of your last run. Slide on in to enjoy the Vale Bar & Grill's ¥1600 all-day breakfast, with lashings of bacon, eggs, sausage, hash browns, tomatoes, mushrooms, and thick-cut toast. An all-you-can-eat buffet for ¥1500 also includes cereals and fruit salad. We were particularly impressed with the coffee – baristas who know what they're doing!
Main road 343 (Map B2) / buffet 7am-10am / 0136 215 833.

2 Downtown Cafe: This fusion-style all-day big breakfast (¥1000) is awesome. If it's not big enough, you can always upsize. Brekky bagels are great on the go. One of the best coffees in town. **Route 343 (Map C2) / all-day breakfast / 0136 23 3354**

3 Hilton: More expensive but so worth it. Spoil yourself with the Hilton indulgence that boasts a huge and varied Western and Eastern buffet (¥3400) in the hotel's Yotei Restaurant and Melt Grill & Bar. **Niseko Village (Higashiyama Map G7) / buffet 6.30am-10.30am / 0136 44 1111**

4 J-Sekka: Not the biggest brekkie, but Sekka's gourmet breakfast menu is a must. Delicious, fresh and locally-sourced ingredients presented in chic Sekka style. Great coffee too. **Main road 343 (Map B2) / 7am-11am / 0136 21 5022**

5 Kogen Hotel: For value and variety, you can't go past Kogen's buffet (¥1700). Sausage, cereals and scrambled eggs to Miso soup, Japanese salad and grilled fish. **Hirafu-Zaka Street (Map E1) / buffet 7am-9am / 0136 220 117**

japanese recipe mina mina's maguro donburi

THIS issue's recipe is for maguro donburi (tuna sashimi rice bowl) thanks to relaxed Hirafu izakaya Mina Mina.



Ingredients

300 gm Fresh Sashimi Tuna
2 spring onions
NORI seaweed sliced thinly
1 tsp white sesame seeds
1 tsp wasabi paste

Seasoning

50 ml Dashi (Japanese soup stock)
15 ml soy sauce
60 ml maple syrup

Method

1. mix Dashi, soy sauce and maple syrup to make the seasoning.
2. slice the fresh tuna, and place into the seasoning. Cover, and leave to sit for 2 to 3 hours in a cold place.
3. prepare rice in a bowl, and put sesame and seasoning on the rice.
4. arrange tuna on the rice, and put NORI and spring onion on top.
5. finish by putting the seasoning on the top and put Wasabi on the side.

How to make the DASHI (Japanese soup stock)

1. Put cold water into big pot, and put a piece of KONBU dried kelp seaweed in.
2. place pot on low heat until almost boiling, then remove the KONBU from the water. Increase heat until water is boiling.
3. When the soup is boiled remove from heat, then add KATSUOBUSHI dried bonito and fish flakes. Leave 3 and half minutes until the flakes sink.
4. Strain the stock through a paper towel, then add a little salt.

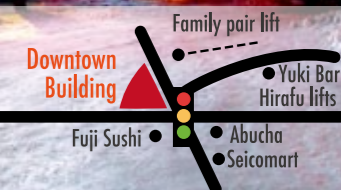
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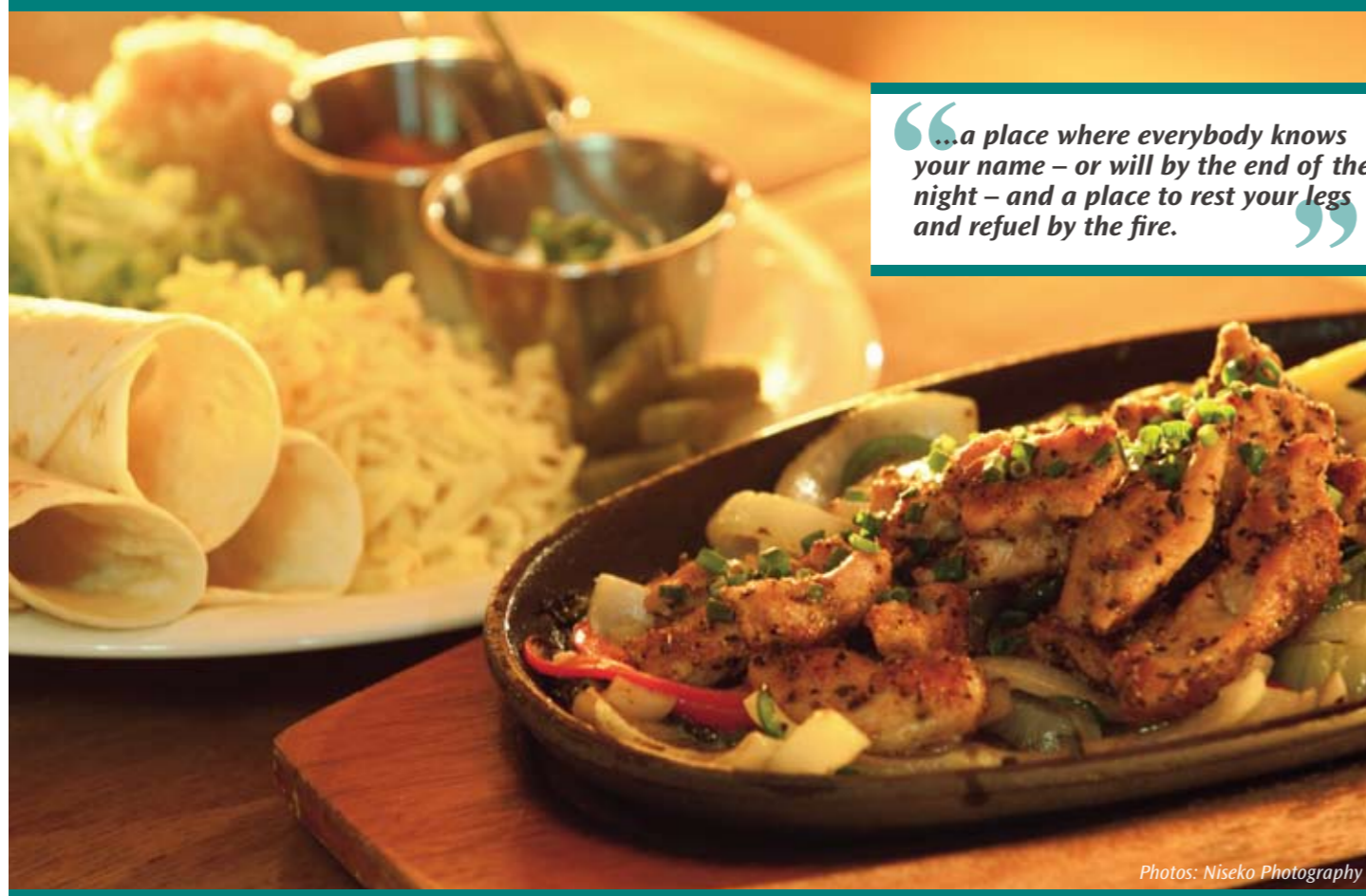
INSKI Niseko (at the traffic lights) Phone: (0)136-224199

LJ Hooker

restaurant review

wild bill's gourmet tex-mex

By Lizzy Hoo



“...a place where everybody knows your name – or will by the end of the night – and a place to rest your legs and refuel by the fire.”

Photos: Niseko Photography



Wild Bills: Sasayaki-Zaka St
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www.powderlife.com/niseko-restaurants

A DAY of skiing or riding Niseko's powder is a surefire recipe for a huge appetite. And sometimes, small plates of delicate Japanese food just aren't the answer to a table full of famished stomachs, aching muscles and festive moods.

So, where do the locals go for hefty portions that can satisfy any level of hunger and taste? Wild Bill's – the local Tex-Mex restaurant and bar where burritos are served with a spicy side of good times, and where the cocktails are accompanied by unofficial disclaimers.

Nestled in the heart of Hirafu in the Upper Village, Wild Bill's is a warm, friendly establishment, lovingly operated by equally warm locals, Brett and Takayo. Together they have created a place where everybody knows your name – or will by the end of the night – and a place to rest your legs and refuel by the fire.

Upon entering Wild Bill's, you'll instantly feel at home. You can sit by the bar, pool table, dart boards, or up on the mezzanine level. The drinks menu is extensive, and the range of strong to extra-strong spirits and cocktails or draft beer are the perfect accompaniment to the tasty selection of Tex-Mex fare. Or you can just come in for a drink and enjoy the antics that play out around you. Note: Just one drink doesn't exist at Bill's – you're bound to stay for at least five. Oh, and make sure you order at least one 'Hachi Special'

On this occasion, we decided to sit upstairs and watch the atmosphere below. We whet our appetites with two of Hirafu's tastiest margaritas and tucked into a Burrito, Fajita and Taco Salad. These dishes were chosen over the Quesadilla, Philly Steak Sandwich and the Nachos Grandola, which we have all had before and can attest to their hunger-breaking ability. Most meals on the menu come with your choice of meat (chicken, beef, pork and shrimp) and a side of rice, fries and/or salad.

If not for the tasty food, you should test out Wild Bill's for the unrivalled atmosphere of a beautiful log cabin with a fireplace, which was once, ironically, a doctor's surgery. Brett, the owner, is a doctor of sorts; he specialises in mending broken hearts, aching limbs, hangovers and life in general with his specialist concoctions. Both Brett and Takayo welcome anyone into their 'home', and offer unconditional love, great Tex-Mex fare and drinks every night.

Each visit to Wild Bill's results in a story – you might remember it, or you will more than likely be reminded of it in the morning by friends and their 'colourful' photos. Either way, you'll recall a great time where you mixed with the Niseko locals and experienced where they go for a satisfying meal and a generously poured beverage.

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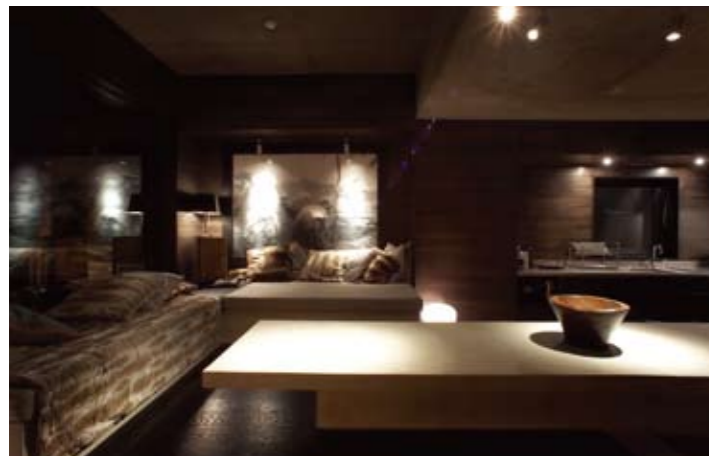
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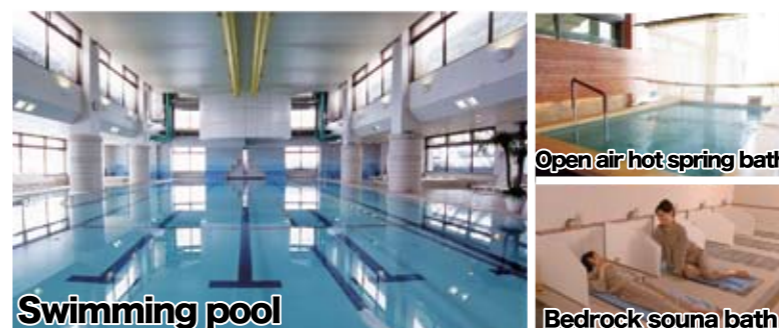
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powder tools *gear to get you going when it's been snowing*

By Bevan Colless



POC Lobes Goggles

POC are a young Swedish company making a range of body armour, helmets, clothes and goggles. They have lofty ambitions and have just moved into Niseko in a big way, sponsoring a selection of local pros, and the Niseko-based movie, Signatures. The Lobes are my favourite of their line-up, with a cutting-edge spherical lens to eliminate optical distortion, and futuristic look that'll be the envy of your mates. As to the oft-asked question what colour lens for Niseko? The answer is...pink!

**Available from Niseko 343: ¥25,200
Tel: 0136 23 0343**



(TTSD) Taro Tamai Surf Design, Rocket Fish

FOR Niseko, you'll be wanting to eschew the American skateboard/park-designed cambered twins that the marketing guys thrust upon you, and get something directional with some rocker – like the 145cm Rocket Fish. I reckon Taro Tamai is the most visionary snowboard designer on the planet, and once again the Rocket Fish is unlike anything else on the market, and perfect for Niseko. It pops in the pow, goes great on the groomers and makes your turns look like Fanning's. The bamboo material is gaining a big following for its flex properties, strength and responsiveness – not to mention the uber-cool oriental look.

**Available from Gentemstick Niseko Showroom: ¥138,600
Tel: 0136 22 5581**

Nordica Girish Ski

THE 2010 Nordica Girish is the updated, re-painted version of the 2009 version called the Blower. Girish is a Hindu word that means 'Lord of the Mountain', and at 110mm underfoot with traditional camber, dual-titanium wood sandwich construction, and vertical sidewalls, its name rings true as it's only for the most aggressive Lords of Niseko. I would prefer it to have a little rocker for Niseko's super-dry pow, but at either 185cm or 193cm they float pretty well just as they are.

**Available from Inski: ¥105,000
Tel: 0136 22 4199**



men who ride mountains *stirling goldman: the man behind the legend*

GREETINGS, punters. It has come to my attention via those wannabes at Powderlife that there are murmurs that: 1) No human could achieve the feats Goldman claims; 2) That I am some mythical being (not too far from truth); 3) Simply that I do not exist. Well, I am writing here to dispel the myths, and to let you know a little about the man behind the legend.

I came into Earth like any other person, but genes were on my side. My father was the first to ever win a Winter Olympics gold medal in every event over five Olympics. My mother was crowned Miss Hungary from age 18-48, when she finally retired. Hence, when the two of them get together and do what Stirls does best... well, what do you get? A ridiculously attractive kid with prize-winning good looks who can ski above all others.

What, you want more? Well, given my father's ski background, I was born for the mountain. With Dad being a champion skier, he got me out on the hill at a young age, and at age eight I was skiing Antarctica's cliffs, which had only ever been photographed previously. Mum was a promo girl for all the schnapps

brands, so I also spent many a night fine-tuning my 'après ski skills' in the bar. By age four, I was instructing adults in France and beating off 21-year-old hotties with a stick in the bar at night. Obviously I was too young to get busy, so they brought in the age of consent to keep my innocence intact. I put those ladies on lay-by, though, and years later they all returned... and all left smiling because it was so worth the wait.

If you still don't believe me, it basically comes down to one thing: jealousy – male jealousy because they can't ski or pull the ladies like me, or the all too common female jealousy, because you haven't yet been pulled by me. Either way, keep living in denial – it's probably better for you that way.

Q. I spent the evening with Lars Longcox last night. He said he was the best powder skier in the world, and drank 64 beers a night. I thought you were the king, but after my five girlfriends and I left Lars' house this morning, we're all left wondering...?? - Tiffany, Dallas.

O! Longcox, hey? (laughs). I bet you were disap-



pointed his surname didn't live up to reality! You say 'five girlfriends', but no offence, Tiffany, I'm assuming you and your friends are...well, I'm not sure how to say this... ladies of generous proportions? Now that's okay, I even had a larger lady fetish back in the late '70s. Not really my thing, so now I leave it to Longcox to clean up my scraps. Also, Tiffany, if you look closer at the 64 beers he drank, I'm pretty sure it says 'Light' next to it. For Goldy it's 48 full-strength and not a drop less. I am the King – the original article, baby. If you drop the pounds, you can come find out, Tiff. A New Year's resolution right there, I reckon.

Got a question for a man who knows? Fire it to stirling@powderlife.com.



Photo: Glen Claydon



Photo: Niseko Photography



Photo: Glen Claydon



Photo: Niseko Photography



Photo: Niseko Photography

A THOUSAND WORDS...



POWDER POSTER

rider Jess Ripper // photo Glen Claydon

backcountry safety *stay safe on the mountain*

NISEKO is renowned for its liberal, open-minded stance when it comes to its wide expanse of backcountry. But with that freedom comes the responsibility of the skier or snowboarder, because Niseko's powder may look soft and friendly, but it is as deadly and dangerous as it is light and fluffy...

Powderlife has collected tips from local experts to help keep you safe out there in Niseko's backcountry. Just remember, all the equipment and knowledge in the world are no substitute for due caution and common sense.

1. Obey the Niseko Rules

These rules are put in place for a reason, and are listed in this magazine on the course map, or in maps available around town.

2. Check weather and avalanche reports

Before venturing out into the backcountry, check the daily local avalanche report at <http://niseko.nadare.info>. Also check weather reports, so you know what to expect for the day ahead.

3. Listen to and obey ski patrollers.

They know what they're talking about and are there to ensure everybody stays safe.

4. Have essential equipment

Make sure everyone has sufficient safety equipment that works well, which should include a beacon, probe and shovel. More importantly, everyone should know how to work their equipment. A first aid kit, studied maps, torch, transceiver, phone, food, a change of clothes and spare gloves may also come in handy.

5. Plan your trip

Know where you're going, let someone know when you're planning to be back, learn the area, and take note of where ski patrol is located in case of emergency.

6. Don't enter closed gates

If the backcountry gates are closed, they are closed for good reason. It's this simple – if the gates are closed or crossed, stay out.

7. No go zones

These include Haru no Taki, and Yu no Sawa, which should not be entered due to high avalanche risks or other dangers. These are well sign-posted and marked on maps available in *Powderlife* (p26), and on course maps available in town.

8. Don't duck ropes

These ropes signify the boundary between the safe and the unsafe and should not be ducked or jumped in any case. And know that ski patrollers can and will confiscate your pass if you are doing the wrong thing.

ski the best niseko has to offer *and live to tell the tale*

FREE backcountry safety seminars are now held every week in Hirafu – and we highly recommend tourists and locals alike get along and check it out.

Hosted by the experienced guys from Black Diamond Tours, the informative seminars are held in the Yuki Bar below the new Black Diamond Tours Hirafu office (on Family-Zaka St), on Tuesdays from 6pm-7pm.

The meetings cover the basics about Niseko and its backcountry – Niseko Rules, the resort's unique gate system which guides entry points into the back-

country, a discussion on backcountry equipment, and basic terrain awareness and assessment, before opening the floor to a Q&A session.

Each week, the seminar will conclude with a frantic search for a beacon that has been hidden in the snow (whoever finds it first gets a free beer!).

But in all seriousness, the life you save with this invaluable new knowledge could be your's, or the life of someone close to you. So please take the time out for one of these seminars before going through the backcountry gates.

These backcountry safety seminars are brought to you by Black Diamond Tours, Yuki Bar and proudly supported by *Powderlife*.

For more information call:
BD Tours on 090 2054 8687
or email:
info@blackdiamondtours.com



SAFETY FIRST...Black Diamond tour guides Clayton Kernaghan and Andrew Spragg are holding free backcountry safety seminars at Yuki Bar this winter.

Avalanche info:

Shinya's daily avalanche report
www.niseko.nadare.info
Canadian Avalanche Association
www.avalanche.ca

Powderlife's Niseko Survival Guide:
• Backcountry Basics
• Inside a 2-day Avalanche Course
• Lost in the Backcountry
• How to Build a Snowcave
[www.powderlife.com/magazine/section/Niseko Survival Guide](http://www.powderlife.com/magazine/section/Niseko%20Survival%20Guide)

Wanna go backcountry?

NGWA Niseko Winter Guide Association
www.nisekoguide.jp

Black Diamond Tours
www.blackdiamondtours.com
090 2054 8687

Shinsetsu Mountain Guides
www.smguides.net
090 6214 1065



FOR YOUR SAFETY
Regardless of how you enjoy your snow sports, always show courtesy to other skiers and snowboarders. Observe the ALPINE RESPONSIBILITY CODE and share with others the responsibility for a great experience.

ALPINE RESPONSIBILITY CODE
1. Know your ability and always stay in control.
2. Take lessons from qualified professional instructors to learn and progress.
3. As you proceed downhill or overtake another person, you must avoid people below and beside you.
4. Do not stop where you could obstruct a trail, a run or are not visible from above.
5. Always use proper downhill, backward and side-slip techniques.
6. Always use chairlift restraining devices where provided and always use proper devices to prevent runaway equipment. Ensure equipment is in good condition.
7. Observe and obey all signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails or runs and keep off or closed areas.
8. Do not ski, snowboard, ride a lift or undertake any other alpine activity if you are impaired by drugs and alcohol.
9. Do not ski, snowboard, ride a lift or undertake any other alpine activity if you are impaired by drugs and alcohol.
10. If you are involved in, or witness an accident, alert the Ski Patrol, remain at the scene and identify yourself to them.

KNOW THE CODE: IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Niseko Rules insists that all resort users respect and obey the instructions of the Ski Patrol and the Shiribeshi Mountain Patrol.
8. RESPECT EACH OTHER
The Niseko Rules have been created with everyone's safety in mind. In order for everyone to remain safe, everyone must respect and follow these rules.

Niseko Rules are official regulations, established by the Niseko Annupuri Avalanche Prevention Committee, the Niseko Free Passport Committee and the Hokkaido Shiribeshi Alpine Accident Prevention Committee.

4. BACK COUNTRY SKIING/RIDING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED WHEN GATES ARE CLOSED
During extremely hazardous conditions, access gates will be closed and out of bounds riding will be strictly prohibited.

5. AVALANCHE CONDITION INFORMATION
The "Niseko Avalanche Information" is the official information posted by "Niseko Avalanche Institute". This information can be found at <http://www.niseko.nadare.info>.

6. BACK COUNTRY RESCUE FEE
YOU are responsible for the cost of your rescue from back country areas.

7. SKI AND MOUNTAIN PATROL INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE OBEYED

2. CROSSING ROPES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED
Ducking the boundary ropes is prohibited. If you do, your lift pass will be confiscated. Use ONLY designated gates to access out of bounds areas. Crossing ropes at other areas will result in lift pass confiscation.

3. NO SAFETY CONTROL BEYOND RESORT BOUNDARY
The area outside the mountain resort boundaries (back country, including the peak just beyond the ski lift area) is not supervised by the Ski Patrol. Niseko Rules prohibits that hiking and riding these areas dangerous and if you choose to, you do it AT YOUR OWN RISK.

Niseko Rules
The Niseko Rules are Niseko's official regulations created for the safety and freedom of everyone using the ski resort and riding beyond the ski area boundary.

1. CERTAIN CLOSED AREAS WITHIN NISEKO ARE STRICTLY OFF LIMIT AND ARE NOT TO BE ENTERED AT ANY TIME
No Sawagully between Annupuri and Niseko Village area, and Haru no Taki (cliff area west of Hirafu) are "STRICTLY off limit areas" as stated by the Niseko Rules. Those riding these areas WILL have their lift pass confiscated.

Avalanche Control Area
Various methods of Avalanche Control combined with an educational program are in use in this area in the interest of increasing avalanche awareness and safety.
Only skiers and riders participating in the program are permitted to use this area.
Contact: Niseko Village 0136-44-2211

- 74 Lift ticket counter
 - 75 Rest room
 - 76 Phone
 - 77 Kids room
 - 78 Restaurants
 - 79 Café
 - 80 Shop
 - 81 Information
 - 82 Rentals
 - 83 Ski school
 - 84 Onsen (Hot Spring)
 - 85 Shuttle bus stop
 - 86 Parking lot
- Un-groomed Slope
Ski patrol
AED
Light
Gate to uncontrolled area
Meguri run
Wave
Half Pipe
Park (Kicker, jib, etc.)
- Name of Slope
Maximum Gradient / Gradient / Length
Easiest
More Difficult
Most Difficult
- Number of seats
Name of Lift
Length: Time required
Number of lift ticket points
- *Lift operating times and courses are subject to change due to weather, snow and light conditions etc.



To ensure safety, those who wish to employ a backcountry ski guide are advised to employ a member of the Niseko Winter Guide Association.
www.nisekoguide.jp/

real estate feature

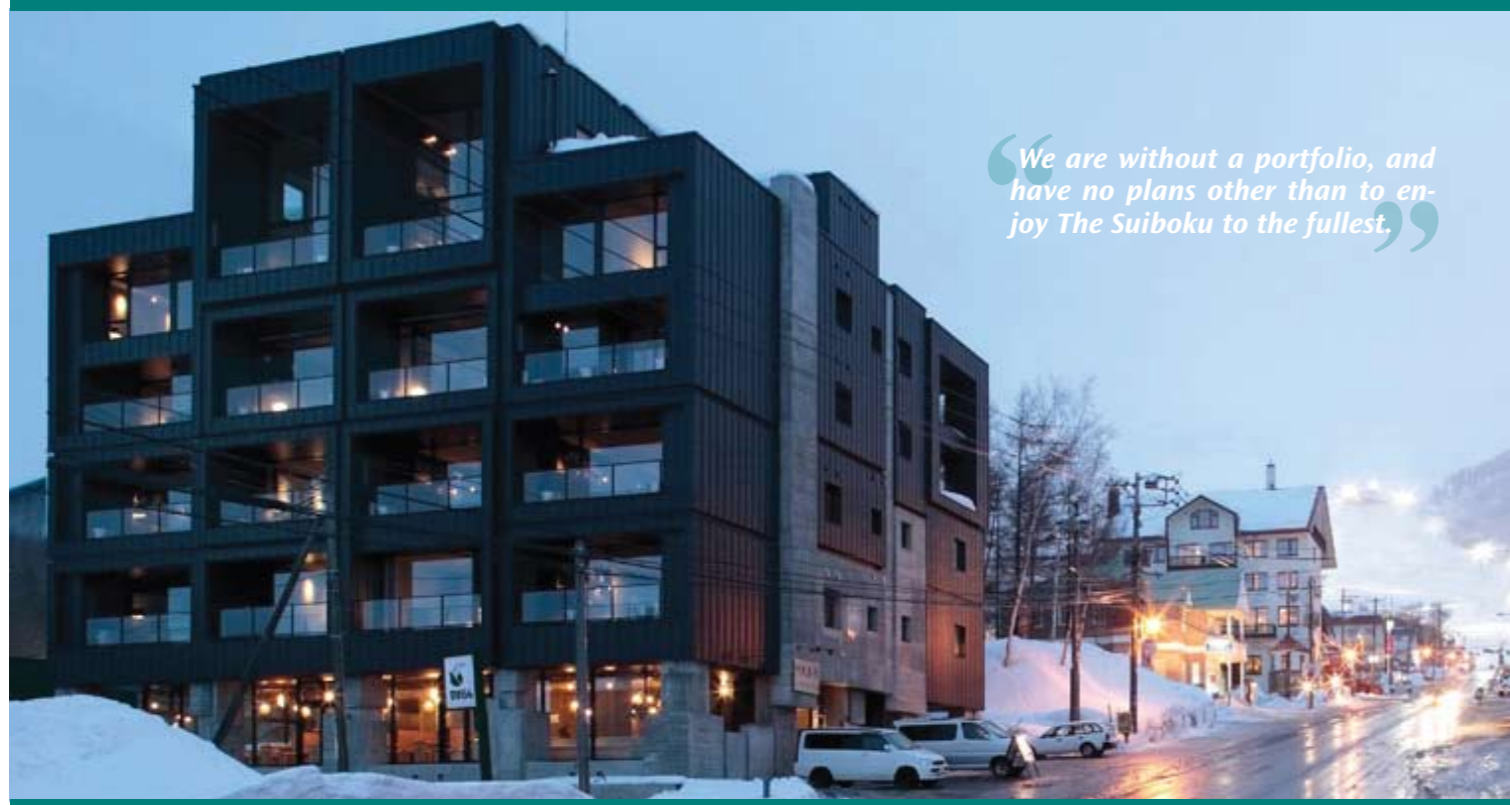
suiboku's accidental developers

By Bevan Colless

MEIKLE & ASSOCIATES



R E A L E S T A T E



“We are without a portfolio, and have no plans other than to enjoy The Suiboku to the fullest.”

Accident, luck, undiscovered natural talent or something else altogether, it doesn't seem to matter now. The Suiboku – developed by Hong Kong-based colleagues CJ Wysocki and Mike Jones – is a striking block of 10 luxury apartments on Hirafu-Zaka Street, about 100m uphill from the traffic lights. On its opening in January, 2009, it was clear that this building was different to anything else in Niseko. Upon entering you are instantly transported away from the hustle and bustle of Hirafu's streets into a chic, modern loft apartment that wouldn't be out of place in London, New York or Paris. The design combines an industrial aesthetic with the fundamentals of Japanese interior design and architecture, and has received great reviews, featuring in Hong Kong Home Journal and the current German edition of Architectural Digest.

Wysocki and Jones had wanted to build a ski retreat for their families, and were blown away by Hirafu on a visit four years ago. “Our intention was to build two places for ourselves, but when we looked at the cost of building we concluded that we needed to add units to sell and some commercial space to rent to be able to pay for construction,” Wysocki says.

“Although many people shared development nightmare stories with us, the combination of working with Niseko Real Estate, West Canada Homes, architects Chris Taylor and Atelier BNK was completely pain-free. Chris Taylor came up with the conceptual

design, after viewing hundreds of pictures that we supplied of features and designs that we liked. Atelier BNK provided the real brains and heart of the project in the form of Ishiguro Koichi, the leader of the BNK architectural team, who designed the Sapporo Superdome stadium”.

Their initial idea was to finance their own two lofts by selling the other eight. The duo sold four of the eight lofts and rented the commercial space to izakaya restaurant Abucha 2, but had two buyers default on purchases, so for the remaining four lofts, they have reduced the purchase prices by the deposits they forfeited. “We arrived at the sales prices of the lofts by taking the construction cost and dividing by eight, which is the number of for sale lofts. C'est tout,” Wysocki says.

The bookings for this season have been very strong, with all demographics – couples, very large families, extreme skiing move-makers, a couple of celebrities and some groups of professionals from Tokyo – staying at The Suiboku already this season. There is even a concierge service, and they are working hard to get the service level up to the very high expectations of Asian travellers.

So do Wysocki and Jones have any further plans to develop in Niseko? “We are without a portfolio and have no plans other than to enjoy Suiboku to the fullest.”

Real estate inquiries to Niseko Real Estate www.nisekorealestate.com.



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real estate news *the niseko property market*

By Chris Chan, property reporter

Six-star Capella gets green light CBA Niseko loans may return

CAPELLA, the world's only six-star hotel and resort chain, will begin construction on its Niseko resort in May 2010 for completion in 2011.

Set on 32 wooded acres at Annupuri, Capella Niseko will be a luxury boutique resort, comprised of 70 suites and a mix of 149 apartments, houses and villas.

Developer Harry Pang said deposits had already been received on about 40 Capella Niseko residences, and he attributed much of the momentum to the involvement of renowned chief architect, Tadao Ando.

The multi-award-winning Japanese designer – billed as 'one of the world's greatest living architects' – has designed some of Japan's most iconic buildings, as well as homes for the likes of U2 front man, Bono.

Pang said they wanted Ando to design the resort to ensure it had a true Japanese feel, and to this end Ando has incorporated traditional Japanese architectural design principles into the project.

A model of Capella Niseko is in Niseko Property's showroom on Hirafu-Zaka Street, opposite the Park Hotel, and inquiries at the new office in Alpen Ridge.

THE Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) may reintroduce loans for Niseko real estate purchases.

CBA Tokyo loan products relationship manager Hank Daaboul said they were looking at resuming Niseko loans, but were not willing to be drawn on details or give any time frames. "At this point the product is still under review," Daaboul said.

The CBA was the first international lender to move into the Niseko market with its 'Niseko 300' product. The loan was structured to allow borrowers to finance purchases in Niseko without requiring additional real estate security, and soon reached its initial target of 300 loans.

In the midst of the global financial crisis, the CBA, along with other international lenders, tightened their lending policies and the Niseko 300 was not extended.

Finance options for investors keen to invest in Niseko are limited and can only be secured on property elsewhere or by cash. The CBA's return would help reinforce the investment picture by providing an alternative to those unwilling to commit to a cash purchase.

Historic Izumikyo block sold

IZUMIKYO Company has sold a premium 800 tsubo (2662sqm) block of land in Izumikyo 2 that it has held since it developed the area in the late 80s.

President Yoshio Nishimura held on to the land for more than 20 years because he had always envisioned he would build his own home on it someday.

Izumikyo client advisor Chris Lane, who brokered the deal along with Ruskin McLennan of Niseko Property, said it was a sentimental sale for Nishimura-san.

"It was a flat site set high on a hill offering unobstructed views of Mt Yotei – it was his favourite block in the entire sub-division," Chris said.

It's the highest per tsubo price for raw land in Izumikyo 2 the company had ever sold, even before the recent downturn, which prompted Nishimura-san to part reluctantly with the asset.

It is understood a Chinese buyer will build two luxury homes on the block, with construction commencing in Spring 2010. There is only one block remaining in Izumikyo that hasn't been sold from the original sub-division, and it too is now on the market.

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 <p>Yama Shizen East 401 2 Upper Hirafu ¥56,000,000 Look at the price! Luxury 2 bedroom apartment enjoying premium Upper Hirafu location and mountain views. 2-keyed for top rental returns. Built by Hokkaido Tracks.</p>	 <p>Miharashi 1 2 Upper Hirafu ¥32,000,000 One of Niseko's cheapest apartments. A funky, modern and central two bedroom unit. Light, airy and a popular rental. Priced close to original purchase price!</p>
 <p>Yama Shizen East 402 3 Upper Hirafu ¥78,800,000 Luxury 3 bedroom, 117.3m2 apartment with big mountain views. Stylish Hokkaido Tracks fit-out with quality materials and furnishings. Splits into 2 bedroom and studio units.</p>	 <p>Mori C 3 Middle Hirafu Price on Application Comfortable home with large picture windows and contemporary styling. Open-plan living and dining areas. Built by premium developer Hokkaido Tracks. Vendor says sell!</p>
 <p>Mountain Tracks 6 Izumikyo I ¥56,000,000 A large 6 bedroom house with many possibilities. Great rental, holiday home, residence or other commercial options. Sought after location with Yotei views.</p>	 <p>Kira Kira 501 2 Upper Hirafu Price on Application Near-new ultra-chic apartment with excellent mountain and forest views. Large panoramic windows and balcony, generous bedrooms and modern living areas.</p>
 <p>Youtei Tracks 503 2 Upper Hirafu ¥110,000,000 Sumptuous penthouse, built by Hokkaido Tracks. Big ski field views and large heated decks with spa. Highest levels of design, style and quality. An excellent rental property.</p>	 <p>Hanazono Residence 5 Hanazono ¥99,000,000 Luxury residence in Hanazono's premium and picturesque North Hills. Built for style, comfort and convenience. Just minutes from Hanazono ski area, big capital gain potential.</p>

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www.hokkaidorealestate.com ☎ **080 5587 5052** (Jason King)

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Niseko Office: Contact: Ikee Architecture Co. Ltd
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restaurants

MAP C2 p47
A-Bu-Cha 2

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MAP D1 p47
Bang Bang

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www.niseko.or.jp/bangbang



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MAP F7 p46
Black Diamond Restaurant

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MAP C2 p47
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MAP B3 p46
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MAP A2 p47
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MAP D3 p47
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MAP D1 p47
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restaurants

MAP A2 p47
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MAP C2 p47
Kabuki

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0136 21 2233

MAP E2 p47
Kamimura

UPPER HIRAFU Trained by one of the world's top chefs, Tetsuya Wakuda, chef Kamimura uses the abundance of Hokkaido produce to create a memorable degustation dining experience.
www.kamimura-niseko.com




Blessed by land, sea and a creative chef

5:30pm-11:00pm
Occasionally closed

0136 21 2288

MAP D2 p47
Mina Mina

UPPER HIRAFU Junmai saké, shochu and plum wines carefully selected by the owner – a qualified sake and shochu sommelier. Best served with our delicious food!
www.minamina.me



Good music, good alcohol

Daytime 11am-3pm
Evening 6pm-2am
Open daily

0136 23 3437

MAP E8 p46
M's Café (Saison Club)

HIGASHIYAMA Try our huge traditional Japanese nabe hotpots with meat, seafood and vegetables – shabu shabu, sukiyaki and Ishikari hotpot. Karaoke lounge available for ¥1000.
www.saison-club.com



Warm your body with our big hearty hotpots

Daytime 10am-4pm
Evening 5.30-7.30pm
Open daily

0136 44 3380

MAP C2 p47
Restaurant & Wine Bar Dragon

MIDDLE HIRAFU Our wines bring out the delicious flavour of Hokkaido venison, local vegetables and other carefully selected ingredients. Ground floor bar offers a fine selection of drinks.
www.dragon-nf.com




Our sommeliers welcome you

6pm-2am (LO 10pm)
Also course dinners/
Breakfast delivery

0136 21 7700

MAP A2 p47
Sekka Dining

MIDDLE HIRAFU Experience a taste of Hokkaido in style at Sekka Dining with an impressive cellar and a menu that celebrates simplicity, innovation, and absolute delicacy in preparation.
www.j-sekka.com




International style showcasing the best of Hokkaido

6-10pm
7 days

0136 21 5022

MAP C1 p47
Sencho 2

UPPER HIRAFU Founded in 1996. While we have seen many changes, the quality of our fresh seafood remains as good as ever. Try us while you are here. The food is so fresh it will dance on your tongue!
www.senchou.com



Best Choice for Gourmet Seafood


5pm-midnight
Open daily

0136 22 5454

restaurants

MAP C1 p47
Shiosai

UPPER HIRAFU
Dine here this evening for the perfect end to your day. Our new restaurant is on the main street in the heart of Hirafu. Serving Niseko since 1996 with authentic Japanese cuisine and sushi.
www.senchou.com




Daytime 12-2pm
Evening 5-10pm
Japanese phone only
0136 55 5009

Fresh, live, gourmet seafood - the ultimate choice!

MAP B5 p46
Shunsai

KUTCHAN
Having trained in various countries, our expert chef creates a colourful array of dishes. Bread freshly baked after ordering. Vegetarian menu available. Chilean wines from ¥2000.



11am-9pm
Closed Sundays
0136 23 1882

Creative fusion cuisine from land and sea

MAP C3 p47
Souan Genghis Khan Lamb BBQ

MIDDLE HIRAFU
Goes perfectly with beer and makes a great party menu. Bring your family and friends for the ¥1700 all-you-can-eat for 90 minutes offer (reservation only, minimum 4 persons).



5pm-2am
Last order 1am
Open daily
090 2059 6701

¥1700 all you can eat barbecue for 90 minutes!

MAP B3 p47
Steak Rosso Rosso

MIDDLE HIRAFU
Casual steak house with a contemporary flavour. Juicy, tender wagyu and Kobe beef, variety of imported wines. Enjoy yourself to satiation with our stylish cuisine and refined hospitality.
www.rossorosso.net



6-11pm
Occasionally closed
0136 21 7100

A must for steak lovers!

MAP E4 p47
Teuchi Soba Ichimura

IZUMIKYO 2
Try our delicious authentic noodles made from local Rankoshi stone-ground buckwheat flour and natural spring water. We recommend the delicious tempura made from seasonal ingredients.
www.niseko-ichimura.com



11am-3pm
Closed Tuesdays
0136 23 0603

Homemade soba noodles, carefully selected ingredients

MAP E3 p47
Tsubara Tsubara

IZUMIKYO 2
Everyone falls in love with our carefully prepared soup made from delicious ingredients. Restaurant recently renovated to give improved access and a larger seating area.
www.tsubaratsubara.com




Lunch 11.30am-3pm
6-10pm (LO 9.30pm)
Closed 2nd/4th Weds
0136 23 1116

Spicy, flavoursome local Hokkaido curry soup

MAP E2 p47
Wild Bill's

UPPER HIRAFU
Come for dinner, stay for drinks – one of Hirafu's most popular bars is also a gourmet Tex-Mex restaurant. House specialties: Soft Tacos, Quesadillas, Burrito Supremo, House Fajitas
www.wildbillsniseko.com



5.30pm-1am(ish)
Open daily
0136 22 5652

Gourmet Tex-Mex in our beautiful log house

MAP B2 p47
Yakitori Yosaku

MIDDLE HIRAFU
Hirafu locals' favorite yakitori restaurant. Come in after a day of powder and try some of our Japanese barbecue, sukiyaki and hot sake.




6pm-3am
Open daily
0136 23 4390

Serving yakitori every night until 3am

bars

MAP C3 p47
Half Note


MIDDLE HIRAFU
The only jazz bar in Hirafu, check out Half Note's regular jazz events at www.nisekohalfnote.com. Also with billiards, table tennis. There's always something going on at Half Note.



Hirafu's only jazz bar!
6pm-midnight
Open daily
0136 23 2727

MAP B3 p46
Loaf Lounge

KUTCHAN
Make sure you spend a day or night in Kutchan, and make sure you check out the coolest bar around. Bar, skateboard bowl, mini ramp, pool, ping pong, events. Kids, girls, non-skaters welcome.
www.loaflounge.com



The only bar with a skateboard bowl inside!
4.20pm-midnight
Open daily
0136 22 1022

MAP A2 p47
Maki Lounge

MIDDLE HIRAFU
Discover the indulgence imperative of the famous Maki Lounge with its large open fire and great night views of the mountain. Savour the very best of Japanese whiskey, sake & shochu.
www.j-sekka.com



Japanese Whiskey, Sake & Shochu
2pm-late
7 days
0136 21 3088

MAP E2 p47
Wild Bill's

UPPER HIRAFU
If you're partial to Tex-Mex, tequila, mojitos, margaritas and music, step out of the snow and into our gorgeous log cabin. Wild Bill's offers the quintessential apres ski atmosphere.
www.wildbillsniseko.com



Like a House Party Should Be
5.30pm-1am(ish)
Open daily
0136 22 5652

MAP B2 p47
Yosaku Bar


MIDDLE HIRAFU
Great local Japanese bar serving lunch everyday and drinks everynight. Billiard table, foosball, darts and Sapporo beer.



On the main street, across from Seicomart
Open daily
Lunchtime to midnight
090 3111 1131

MAP C2 p47
Yuki Bar

UPPER HIRAFU
Yuki bar is always open for a sports match! Darts, billiards and foosball. Make no mistake – start the party with a 4 litre Beer Tower! Or the famous Okinawa's Snake Sake!



Start the party!
5pm-2am
Closed Mondays
0136 22 0234

MAP C2 p47
Paddy McGinty's Irish Pub


Open all year round midday till late Darts & Live Sports on the Biggest Screen in Niseko
Trivia and Fun Nights
Draft Guinness & Kilkenny
Great Pub Food & Kids' Menu
www.paddymcginrysirishpub.com | Ph 0136 55 8020



tours & activities

MAP F7 p47
Black Diamond Tours

UPPER HIRAFU
Check out Niseko's incredible backcountry or visit Rusutsu, Sapporo Kokusai or Teine Highland. We also have a range of backcountry tours to suit your lung capacity.
www.blackdiamondtours.com



Niseko's Backcountry Powder Specialists

8am-8pm daily
Located above Yuki Bar
Across from Alpen Ridge
090 2054 8687

MAP B4 p46
Japanese Cultural Tours

HIRAFU-KUTCHAN
Experience Japan's cultural heritage in Kutchan. Tea ceremony, iaido sword demo, taiko drums, sake brewery tour, Japanese dinner. ¥3000/¥1500. Departs Seicomart Hirafu, ends Kutchan.
www.niseko.co.jp/plat




Experience Japan's cultural heritage

3-7.30pm
Jan 10/Feb 3/Feb 15
Bookings essential
0136 23 0222

MAP D1 p47
Niseko Foot 'Body & Foot Treatment'

UPPER HIRAFU
Visit this popular relaxation salon and sample some of our many treatments. All different styles of massage are available for body and feet. 45 min, 60 min and 90 minute courses.
www.grand-hirafu.jp/nisekofoot




Closest massage to the Centre 4 Lift

11am-10pm
Free pick up available
0136 22 1224

MAP A2 p47
Niseko Massage

MIDDLE HIRAFU
Australian-trained massage therapists, specialising in oil massage for recovery and relaxation. Early bird special offers discounted rates for massages before 2pm. From ¥6,000 per hour.
www.nisekomassage.com



Sports and relaxation massage in the middle of Hirafu

8am-8pm daily
Home visits available
0136 22 0399

MAP C1 p47
On-Snow Photography & Video Tours

UPPER HIRAFU
From the deepest powder pics to group tours and family shots – Niseko Photography are the local professionals. Book a tour and capture your priceless holiday memories.
www.nisekophotography.com



Niseko's Professional Photographers!

Gallery: midday-8pm
On the mountain: All day, every day
0136 22 5764

MAP A3 47
Niseko Snowmobile Adventures

LOWER HIRAFU
Backcountry Adventures
Top Machines
Qualified Guides
MAXIMUM FUN!!
Based in Hangloose Lower Hirafu
www.go-nsa.com




Guided Snowmobile Adventures

7 days
Bookings essential
090 9757 4083

MAP C1 p47
NISS International Snowsports School

HIRAFU/HANAZONO
NISS offers a comprehensive range of programs to accommodate every guest's needs and aspirations. Take advantage of Hanazono's excellent new 308 kids facility and group class sizes.
www.harmonyresorts.com



Kids are our specialty Hirafu & Hanazono

8.30am-4pm
Ticket Sales/Kids Centre
Hirafu & Hanazono
0136 21 6688

MAP D3 p47
Shinsetsu Mountain Guides

MIDDLE HIRAFU
Qualified guides, dedicated instructors, renowned service. Experience all that Niseko has to offer with Shinsetsu Mountain Guides and Ski School.
www.smguides.net




Experience all that Niseko has to offer

Smguides@gmail.com
090 6214 1065

shopping & retail

MAP B3 p46
Boom Sports

KUTCHAN
Stocking a great variety of souvenirs and original Niseko limited editions. Ski and snowboard hire also available from this season!
www.boom-snow.com



Snow goods and Niseko limited souvenirs

10am-7.30pm
Open daily
0136 23 0011

MAP B3 p46
Cocoroya

KUTCHAN
Offers antique Kimono, furniture and original hand made gifts. We can also bring a range of goods to your apartment for home shopping. Try our origami lessons, incl green tea ¥3,500.
www.cocoroya.jp




Take home a unique piece of Japan

10.30am-7.30pm
Open every day
0136 23 0008

MAP C1 p47
Fusion Sports Shop

HIRAFU/HANAZONO
Great gear, good value, friendly staff. Fusion provides all your on mountain and après needs. Popular brands like BURTON, OAKLEY, DAKINE, THE NORTH FACE, VOLCOM and more.
www.harmonyresorts.com




Gear for the Elements At 2 Locations in Niseko

Hirafu 8am-9pm
Hanazono 8.30-5pm
Hirafu 0136 21 6633 / Hanazono 0136 23 0911

MAP F4 p47
Hana Jizoh

IZUMIKYO 2
Amazing sweet and savoury breads and pastries from a friendly local family bakery. Must try! Get the free Hirafu Village shuttle to bus stop 27, near Unitas Log Village.




Creative and delicious breads from local baker

0136 23 0331

MAP E2 p47
Niseko 343

MIDDLE HIRAFU
NISEKO weather demands special equipment – "Niseko-grade" gear. Find it at Niseko 343. Providing snow gear and impeccable service since 1993. High-grade rentals and tune-ups.
www.niseko343.com



NISEKO+343 = 200% FUN

8am-9pm
Open daily
0136 23 0343

MAP C1 p47
Niseko Four Seasons Photo Gallery

UPPER HIRAFU
Stunning prints and fine art canvas works. Niseko Photography's gallery is a showcase of beautiful photography from Niseko's stunning four seasons. BERG HOUSE Main Street, Hirafu.
www.nisekophotography.com



Photo Gallery - fine art prints and souvenirs

Midday-8pm
Open daily
0136 22 5764

MAP C2 p47
Sakura

UPPER HIRAFU
Tucked in behind Paddy McGinty's, Sakura offers a wide selection of gifts including kimonos, geisha hairpins, pottery, paintings, traditional wooden furniture and more.
www.sakura-niseko.com



Your one-stop Japanese souvenir shop

2-9pm daily in winter
0136 21 7007

MAP E2 p47
Toyru

UPPER HIRAFU
Our great line-up features Patagonia, GIRO, POC, SOREL, Vector Glide (skis from Japanese maker). We have everything you need for riding Niseko's powder and a range of backcountry gear.
www.toyru.com




Really close to the Gondola station!!

11am-8pm
Open daily
0136 21 4055


rental & services

MAP C1 p47
DEMO Equipment Hire
 HIRAFU/HANAZONO
 Huge fleet of skis & boots, snowboards & boots, helmets and snow shoes for adults and kids. Deep powder, park, groomed, off piste, back country, we have equipment to suit all conditions and all levels.
 www.harmonyresorts.com




Free Drop off Hirafu, Free O'night Storage 308
 Hirafu 8am-9pm
 Hanazono 8.30-5pm
Hirafu 0136 21 6677 / Hanazono 0136 23 0911

MAP F7 p46
Niseko Auto Rentals and Sales
 HIGASHIYAMA
 Complement your holiday or home with a 4WD vehicle. Local licensed dealer offering affordable rentals and sales IN ENGLISH. Short and long term rentals available.
 www.nisekoauto.com




4WD vans from ¥45,000/week or ¥135,000/month
 9am-9pm
 24hr Emergency English Roadside Assistance
090 2055 6074

MAP C3 p47
TANA's Healing House RAKU
 MIDDLE HIRAFU
 More than a massage - Get to the root of your problem. Realigning techniques achieve natural healing by balancing skeletal, muscular & nerve systems. Especially good for chronic problems. Est 12 years.



Our most consistent comment: "Amazing!"
 2pm-8pm
 Closed Wednesday
080 6098 1418

MAP G8 p46
Kaya Design & Construction
 KABAYAMA
 Specializing in traditional techniques with a contemporary feel, we are the name behind many of Niseko's iconic properties. All aspects of design, construction & supervision.
 www.kaya-architect.com




Bring your dreams to reality
 9am-4pm or by appt
0136 21 5888

MAP NA
Glen Claydon Photography
 HIRAFU
 Complete photographic services including architectural, landscape, stock, prints and panoramic photography for online virtual tours.
 www.glenclaydon.com




Creatively capturing Niseko
080 6098 7244

MAP A2 p47
Niseko Physio
 MIDDLE HIRAFU
 Australian trained physiotherapists, sports injuries, back and neck pain, rehabilitation, taping, braces, pain relief, managed by Tokyo Physio (est 2002). Hakuba clinic now open in Phoenix Hotel.
 www.nisekophysio.com




Niseko's sports injury centre in the middle of Hirafu
 8am-8pm
 Open every day
0136 22 0399

MAP NA
J-Build
 HIRAFU
 • Consulting
 • Project Management
 • New Homes
 • Renovations
 • Building Supplies
 www.jbuildniseko.com



18 years experience in Japan
 We never close
 www.jbuildniseko.com
090 9380 5729

MAP NA
Niseko Designer Homes
 HIRAFU
 Make your Niseko retreat special with custom design and project management from an experienced Australian designer. Call for an obligation free consultation.
 www.nisekodesignerhomes.com



Award-winning design & professional building services
 9am-9pm
080 6097 9765


travel & accommodation

MAP E1 p47
Deep Powder Tours Ski Holidays
 UPPER HIRAFU
 A licensed I.A.T.A international travel agent. Check out our website for a broad overview of the many ski resorts in Japan that we offer.
 www.deeppowdertours.com




The Ultimate Ski and Snowboard Experience!
 10am-6pm
0136 21 5827

MAP B3 p47
Holiday Niseko
 LOWER HIRAFU
 Holiday Niseko - Affordable holidays and ski packages. Saving you more.
 www.holidayniseko.com




Leader of the pack
 8.30am-6pm
0136 21 6221

MAP C2 p47
Nisade
 UPPER HIRAFU
 Located on Niseko's best SKI-IN, SKI OUT location, The Vale Niseko offers the comfort and spaciousness of fully equipped luxury apartments packaged with the amenities of a five star hotel.
 www.nisade.com



Your Alpine Partner
 7am-11pm
0136 22 0038

MAP F3 p47
The Niseko Company
 IZUMIKYO 1
 Luxury Accommodation Beyond Expectation Let Us Tempt You
 www.thenisekocompany.com




Luxury Mountain Holidays
 8am-8pm
 Monday-Sunday
0136 21 7272

MAP E2 p47
Hokkaido Tracks Holidays
 UPPER HIRAFU
 A truly international resort in the heart of Hokkaido. HT Holidays will ensure that you get to experience the best that Niseko has to offer whatever the season.
 www.htholidays.com




Experience exceptional
 8am to 9pm
 Monday to Sunday
0136 23 3503

MAP E2 p47
NPC Niseko Powder Connection
 UPPER HIRAFU
 Save time, save money. NPC can arrange everything you need including lift passes, rentals, lessons, transfers, mountain tours, guiding, day trips and food hampers.
 www.niseko-hirafu.com




the smarter choice
 1- 6pm
 Monday to Saturday
0136 21 2500

MAP E4 p47
Shizenkan Backpacker & Lodge
 IZUMIKYO 2
 With exceptional facilities and a great atmosphere, Shizenkan Backpacker & Lodge are the pick of the bunch for travellers on a budget.
 www.niseko-backpacker.com



Backpacker and Ski Lodge Accommodation
 7am-10pm
 7 days
0136 23 4351

MAP C1 p47
Travelplan
 UPPER HIRAFU
 Australia's # 1 Snow Holiday specialist with 39 years experience, offering a wide selection of pensions, hotels and quality apartments in Niseko and other resorts.
 www.travelplan.com.au



The World's Best Ski Holidays
 8am-8pm
 7 days
0136 21 5354

niseko maps *kutchan, annupuri, higashiyama*

KUTCHAN

ANNUPURI

HIGASHIYAMA

Legend:

- Bars & Restaurants:** A3 Cafe Kaku, A3 Nami Chan Chi, A3 Nozomi II 2F, A3 Be 1F, A3 World Sports Bar 2F, C4 Manana, A3 Loaf Lounge, A4 Shunsai, D3 Cocoroya Okonomiyaki, A3 Cocoroya Antique Shop, A3 Boom, A5 Fuji Confectionary, C3 Hanko Hiroba, A4 Kutchan Tourist Info Centre, C3 Hidamari, A4 Hammako, A4 Nihon Bashi
- Hospital:** Kutchan Hospital A3
- Post Office (ATM):** C2, E3
- Supermarkets:** G3 1. Max Valu, C3 2. Joy, A4 3. Co-op
- 7-Eleven (ATM):** C1, A4
- Kutchan Town Office:** B1
- Drug Store:** G4, D3, C3
- Homac:** G3
- Gas Station:** E3, C3
- Train Station:** B5
- Police:** C2, C5

Other Landmarks: Kutchan Town Office, 7-Eleven (ATM), Police Station, Main Post Office (ATM), Drug Store, Hidamari, Hanko Hiroba, Gas Station, Post Office (ATM), Cocoro Okonomiyaki, Joy - Supermarket, Max-Valu Supermarket, HOMAC, Drug Store, Police Box (Koban), Kutchan Train Station, Miyako Dori, Eki Mae Dori, Route 276, Route 5, Route 343, Route 58, Route 66.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| A7 Kanro No Mori | C7 BBQ House Moku Moku Tei | A8 Grand Hotel (Onsen) | C8 Karabina |
| B7 Moiva Ski Resort | D7 Niseko Northern Resort | C8 Annupuri Village | D8 Lohas |
| B7 Pow Com Cafe | D7 Nook | C8 Yu Gokoro Tei (Onsen) | D8 Grove |
| C7 Ikoi No Mura | A8 Kanro Sui - Spring Water | C8 Rakuichi | |
| | | G6 Hilton Niseko Village | E7 Niseko Life Plan |
| | | G6 Hilton Onsen | E8 Milk Ko-bo |
| | | E7 Green Leaf Hotel | E8 Saison |
| | | E7 Black Diamond Lodge | E8 M's Cafe |

Hirafu Main Village

Hirafu South Village

Hirafu East Village

Legend:

- Resort Hotel
- Accommodation
- Restaurant, Food
- Shop
- Rental
- Ski School, Activity
- Travel Company
- Real Estate, Developer, Management
- Body Care
- Information Center
- Convenience Store
- Hot Spring
- Lift Ticket Counter
- Day Care Center
- Information Map
- Post
- International ATM(2)
- Spa Bus - Bus Stop
- Grand Street - Bus Stop (Old Winter)
- Haazono Street - Bus Stop (Old Winter)
- Kutchan Night Go - Bus Stop (Old Winter)
- Local Bus - Bus Stop
- NISEKO UNITED Shuttle - Bus Stop

Other Landmarks: Niseko Grand Hirafu, Niseko Northern Resort, Niseko Life Plan, Niseko Onsen, Niseko Ski School, Niseko Ski Center, Niseko Ski Lift, Niseko Ski Bus, Niseko Ski Shuttle, Niseko Ski Taxi, Niseko Ski Rental, Niseko Ski Storage, Niseko Ski Shop, Niseko Ski Tour, Niseko Ski Village, Niseko Ski Zone, Niseko Ski Zone 1, Niseko Ski Zone 2, Niseko Ski Zone 3, Niseko Ski Zone 4, Niseko Ski Zone 5, Niseko Ski Zone 6, Niseko Ski Zone 7, Niseko Ski Zone 8, Niseko Ski Zone 9, Niseko Ski Zone 10, Niseko Ski Zone 11, Niseko Ski Zone 12, Niseko Ski Zone 13, Niseko Ski Zone 14, Niseko Ski Zone 15, Niseko Ski Zone 16, Niseko Ski Zone 17, Niseko Ski Zone 18, Niseko Ski Zone 19, Niseko Ski Zone 20.

speed dial quick guide to village phone numbers

Restaurants,cafés and eateries

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| ■ A-Bu-Cha
阿武茶
22 5620 | ■ EN in-house fine dining
宴インハウスファインダイニング
55 8100 | ■ Java Bar and Café
ジャバ バー&カフェ
090 2871 6781 | ■ Niseko Genghis Khan
ニセコ ジンギスカン
22-2138 | ■ Shunsai
旬彩
23-1882 |
| ■ Aburiya
あぶり屋
090 7656 5767 | ■ Ezo seafoods
エソ・シーフード
090-1203-7879 | ■ JoJo's Café and Bar
ジョジョズ (カフェ&バー)
23 2093 | ■ Niseko Gourmet
ニセコグルメ
080 5584 1313 | ■ Slalom
スラローム
22 1105 |
| ■ Bang Bang
バンバン
22 4292 | ■ Fujizushi Sushi
ふじ鮨
23 2661 | ■ Jyuu Okonomiyaki
じゅう
44 2336 | ■ Niseko Pizza
ニセコ ピザ
55 5553 [MAP D2] | ■ Souan
草庵
090-2059-6701 |
| ■ Barunba
バルンバ
090 8907 9399 | ■ Gentem Café
玄天カフェ
23 3154 | ■ Kabuki
カブキ
21-2233 | ■ Paddy McGinty's
パディーマッキンティーズ
55 8020 | ■ Spur Chinese Restaurant
シュプルー (中華レストラン)
22 1105 |
| ■ B's Café and Bar
ビーズ カフェ&バー
22 1480 | ■ Grandpapa
グランパパ
23 2244 | ■ Kakashi
かかし
23 2622 | ■ Payoka
パヨカ
22 0117 | ■ Steak Rosso Rosso
ステーキロソロソ
21-7100 |
| ■ Bhozan
ボーザン
21-2121 | ■ Graubunden
グラウブウンデン
23 3371 | ■ Kame
亀
22 0339 | ■ Piccolo House
ピッコロハウス (カフェ&バー)
23 0311 | ■ The Barn
ザ・バーン
23-0888 |
| ■ Black Diamond Lodge Restaurant
ブラックダイヤモンドレストラン
44 1144 | ■ Guzuguzu
ぐずぐず
21-4855 | ■ Kamimura
カミムラ
21 2288 | ■ Raku Izakaya
楽 居酒屋
22 6638 | ■ Tsubara Tsubara
つばらつばら
23 1116 |
| ■ Bouken Kazoku
冒険家族
22 3759 | ■ Hana Jizoh Bakery
花地蔵
23 0331 | ■ LumberJack
ランバージャック
22-3086 | ■ Ramat Niseko
ラマッタニセコ
21 5088 | ■ Vale Bar and Grill
ヴァールバーアンドグリル
21-5833 |
| ■ Café KAKU
カフェ覚
22-5608 | ■ Hidamari
陽だまり
55-5000 | ■ Lupicia
ルピシア
21 7880 | ■ Rin Izakaya
りん 居酒屋
22 1444 | ■ Wild Bill's
ワイルドビルズ
22 5652 |
| ■ Chidori
千鳥
23 2831 | ■ Hinabeya
火鍋屋
23-2636 | ■ M's Café
エムスカフェ
44-3380 | ■ Sakae Izakaya
さかえ
22-4198 | ■ Yawaraya
やわらや
23 3810 |
| ■ Cocoro okonomiyaki
お好み焼きこころ
23-0008 | ■ Hirafu Fleur
創作料理ヒラフル
23 3306 | ■ Mina Mina
ミナミナ
23 4471 | ■ Sekka Dining
セッカダイニング
21 5022 | ■ Yo
よ
22-6979 |
| ■ Curry Goya
カレー小屋
23 3688 | ■ Ichimura Soba
蕎麦屋 いちむら
23 0603 | ■ Mokoraya
もこらや
090 8279 0598 | ■ Senchou 1 Izakaya
船長 (居酒屋)
22 2001 | ■ Yosaku
与作
23-4390 |
| ■ Downtown Café
ダウンタウンカフェ
23 3354 | ■ if... Café
カフェ イフ
22 4770 | ■ Mozart
モーツァルト
090 2699 6387 | ■ Senchou 2 Seafood Izakaya
海山屋 (海鮮居酒屋)
22 5454 | ■ Youtei Yakiniku
焼肉ようてい
22 0109 |
| ■ Dragon Wine and Food Bar
ドラゴン ワイン&バー
21 7700 | ■ Jam Café Bar
ジャム (カフェ&バー)
23 0700 | ■ Nakaya
なかや
090-7518-0873 | ■ Shiosai
潮彩
55-5009 | ■ Yummy's
ヤミーズ
21 2239 |
| ■ Ebisutei
えびす亭
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Visiting Skier "Saved"

Staff members of local accommodation provider **HolidayNiseko.com** were praised for their recent actions that prevented an almost certain tragedy.

Speaking to reporters, international skier Mr Ty Tass thanked **HolidayNiseko.com** for saving his ski vacation. "If it hadn't been for Holiday Niseko I certainly would not be here today. Without **Holiday Niseko's** great deals on accommodation in central locations, I wouldn't have been able to afford the trip. **Holiday Niseko** saved the day!"

HolidayNiseko.com manager, Ms Annie Buddyhome refused to comment on the incident saying, "We prefer to let our prices do the talking."

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Dear Mum,
I've been in Japan for 5 days now.
Here's what I've been up to:
Monday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
Tuesday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
Wednesday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
Thursday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
Friday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
I think I might extend my stay another week!
See you soon.
Love Johnnie

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after the melt



“The course is about 12km from start to finish and alternates between powerful, rocky chutes and wide, calm reaches...”

AFTER skiing, rafting is Niseko's most popular activity. Rafting is truly a sport for all seasons – yes, you can even go rafting in the middle of winter! But the rivers are at their spectacular best in April, when the sun's warmth really starts to eat through layers of snow which then feed into the rivers. When the 3-4m-thick layer of snow starts to melt off, it adds up to a lot of run-off that whips up Grade 3 and sometimes up to Grade 4 rapids. The water is literally icy cold. But don't worry, before you set off you'll be suited up in a dry suit with tight rubber seals around your ankles, wrists and neck. You can even jump in the water and not feel too cold.

The starting point in spring is just a five-minute bus ride down the beautiful Hirafu Station road. After a few instructions, you set off on a calm 100m stretch of river, which gives everyone a chance to practice paddling. As the river bends you're straight into your first rapid. The course is about 12km from start to finish, and alternates between powerful, rocky chutes and wide, calm reaches, with an exciting dam spillway to negotiate along the way. After the spring run-off has subsided, the river calms down and the focus is more on relaxing and enjoying the summer scenery. The season draws to a close at the end of October, when the spectacular reds and yellows of autumn fill the banks of the rivers. And if you're lucky, you might even get some snow!

Photo: Glen Claydon

niseko cycle week 2009 event was 'perfect'

THE second Niseko Cycle Week fulfilled its promise to be bigger and better than the first, with organisers and participants agreeing the event was a huge success.

"It was perfect," declared Jess Ripper, one of the many volunteer event organisers of the September event. "There were definitely more people involved in all the events overall, which is testament to the fact the event is growing, and it's here to stay."

"The response from the people involved this year, especially those who came internationally, was overwhelming – they were blown away by the surroundings, and every event in general ran a lot smoother."

Highlights of the week included:

- The hugely successful opening and closing gourmet barbecues, which were run alongside mountain bike events and attracted plenty of families and non-cyclists, as well as the hardcore pedal pushers.
- Bike to Work Day, which got more than 100 locals,

including plenty of non-cyclists, pedalling to work.

- The night-time social events including the Black Diamond Lodge Fire and Jump Jam, featuring local mountain bikers taking on three massive jumps, and Northfield Lodge's Cranked Movie and Mexican Night.
- Much greater participation in the intermediate level social road rides, which were held almost every day of the week across Niseko.

Jess said one of the most satisfying aspects of the second Niseko Cycle Week was that it had fulfilled its aims laid down before the event:

- To promote the area's amazing potential as a mountain biking and road cycling destination.
 - To promote an active lifestyle and health awareness.
 - To contribute to the notion of environmental sustainability through the use of bikes rather than cars.
- Niseko Cycle Week will be back again next summer so keep an eye on www.nisekocycleweek.com.**



WHEELS IN MOTION... Niseko Cycle Week heading towards its third year. Photo: Glen Claydon

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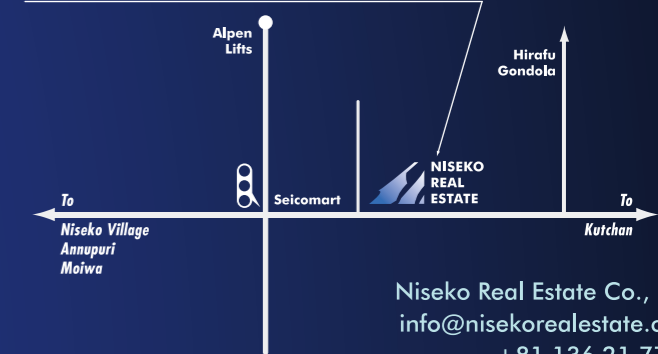
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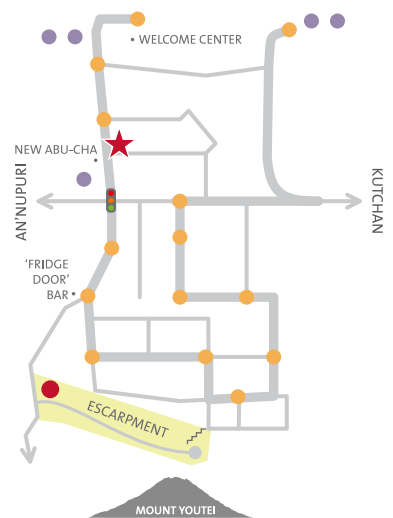
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