

Commitment to Education, Training, and Accreditation:

My journey into the snowsports industry began as a means to fund my skiing adventures on my gap year, both in Australia and abroad. Initially, my understanding of what it meant to be an instructor was limited, even as I completed my Level 1 certification. It was during my first season instructing privately in Shiga Kogen that I gained invaluable insight into working one-on-one with students. Despite the initial challenges, it was a formative experience that fueled my desire to continue instructing.

I attempted the Level 2 certification during my second season at Perisher, where I failed the demonstrations. I wasn't able to re-sit until the following year but my grandmother passed away and I had to wait until the end of the season to take the exam. When I passed it marked a personal milestone but also ignited an ambition to pursue level 3.

Venturing to South Korea for the following northern hemisphere winter, I absorbed a lot from my ski school director's way of skiing and gained exposure to the technical competitions popular in East Asia. Witnessing their meticulous approach to movement analysis and performance skiing served as inspiration for my own development. However, the pandemic disrupted plans for further progression, leaving me and countless others in the industry at a standstill.

I returned to Japan in 2021, but the ongoing travel restrictions reduced work for most of the instructors in the area. This period allowed me to apply myself doing my own training in preparation for Level 3 at Perisher, which I passed on my first attempt. The achievement really validated my efforts and ignited a newfound passion for exploring skiing through other movement practices too.

I plan on making a start on level 4 this season and I'm excited to learn and explore. I'm proud to have made it this far - skiing was never a big part of my life growing up or even something I'd considered as a career when I started university but it has really become my defining passion.

Professionalism:

I prioritise clear communication when I'm conducting myself with others. Before skiing I did have a background in communications so it's something I've brought with me into instructing. It's not only important to have the knowledge and the skills but also to be able to effectively pass that onto someone who's learning. Understanding pedagogy has been really critical for me to be able to shape my instruction to a higher level and tailor my approach to the individual needs and learning styles of my students.

Beyond imparting knowledge and skills, I recognize the importance of fostering a supportive learning environment conducive to growth and development - I approach each lesson with a sense of responsibility and integrity but also an excitement for people who are getting into the sport.

Contribution and service provided to the industry

I spent the 2021-22 Japanese season coaching the Rhythm Futures program in Niseko. This was a community-based initiative, launched during a COVID-affected season, and sought to engage local kids in skiing and create opportunities for shared experiences on the mountain.

Through my participation in the program, I really saw firsthand the transformative power of skiing as a means for personal growth and community connection. Guiding young skiers through a lot of

their “firsts” on the mountain was immensely rewarding, and I want to continue this commitment to promoting access and participation within snowsports.

Future direction and commitment to the industry

Looking ahead, my commitment to the snowsports industry is driven by a desire to continue pushing boundaries and working on my own mastery of the sport. I do aspire to one day become a trainer, to mentor another generation of instructors. I am acutely aware of the importance of women in high level sports and am committed to advocating for greater inclusivity and opportunity within the industry.

My passion for backcountry skiing and exploration also motivates me to expand my knowledge and skills in this area. Building upon my previous certifications, such as AST 1 and 2, I will continue to deepen my understanding of backcountry terrain and safety practices.

Ultimately, my commitment to the snowsports industry extends beyond professional pursuits, to dedication to the sport and its community. I’ve come to realise that skiing really is my calling - I will continue to do back-to-back winters for as long as possible.