

### Sign up to Direct Dial Tolls & you could win a double pass to Snowplanet!



Sign up to Quicksilver's direct dial toll service during the month of June, and you will go into the prize draw to win a fantastic double pass including gear rental from Snowplanet!

Quicksilver Direct Dial Tolls offers national and international toll calls at an affordable rate. Our toll rates are flat rate, with no peak/offpeak rates, just one, consistent rate, day or night.

We'll also give you discounted rates on your 3 favourite locations, so you'll pay even less.

#### BENEFITS OF DIRECT DIAL TOLLS

- No hidden charges
- No setup fees, no monthly minimum spend, and no monthly fee
- No PIN numbers to dial
- No peak periods, no call steps, just offpeak rates all day, every day
- Discounts for your 3 Favourite Countries
- Free signup over the phone

#### Earn FREE Broadband too!

Put your direct dial toll calls and broadband connection through Quicksilver, and if you spend over \$10 on direct dial toll calls, you will receive 10% of the toll call total as a rebate against your Quickfire Broadband account -- if you spend enough on toll calls your broadband connection will be FREE.

Quicksilver is the

only broadband ISP offering you greater broadband rewards when you spend more on toll calls.

It's FREE to sign up to Direct Dial Tolls - just ring **0800 QUICKSILVER** (0800 784 257)

#### Broadband Speed Issues

Quicksilver's Helpdesk is currently fielding a number of complaints regarding Broadband speed issues.

Whilst we must emphasise that no minimum speed guarantees are offered on the ADSL Broadband service, we'd like to assure customers that we are making every effort to maximise the speeds available, within our power.

Recent tests carried out by Quicksilver and other industry players have shown the current major speed constraint lies in the Telecom DSL backhaul network, and the ratios at which Telecom provisions the ATM pipe to the ISP.

Currently Telecom allocate an average 24kbps backhaul bandwidth (to carry the data from Telecom's network to Quicksilver) per customer. We believe this applies to all ISPs except Xtra, and this is creating congestion on many ISP networks, including Quicksilver's. This is affecting the whole industry. Xtra customers do appear to be affected by some related congestion issues, but seem to have less issues than customers of other ISPs.

Whilst the major issue is the Telecom allocation of bandwidth, there are some smaller areas which Quicksilver has control over. We have already made several network upgrades to meet forecasted demand for the new broadband plans. This includes additional international bandwidth being added, new Server infrastructure, to allow loadsharing and future scalability, and negotiations with Telecom to improve the speeds.

Quicksilver is also working through the media, and with industry lobby group ISPANZ to continue to push for higher standards in NZ broadband.

Again, we ask for your understanding and support as we strive to improve this situation.

#### Quicksilver Delighted at Govt Broadband Announcement

Quicksilver is delighted at the surprise broadband announcement from Minister of Communications, David Cunliffe this month.

The new telecommunications package from the Government opens up Telecom's network, paving the way for fair and open competition in the broadband industry. The package includes LLU (Local Loop Unbundling), 'Naked' DSL, unconstrained speeds on regulated UBS (Unbundled Bitstream Service), and increased monitoring to ensure competition in the broadband industry.

Quicksilver's managing director, Matthew Hobbs, says "This will change the way Kiwis do business, view entertainment, and communicate in the future. It will pave the way for faster, cheaper broadband, and innovation in broadband services, within the next 2 years.

We applaud the government's bold action - this is great news for broadband in New Zealand." In the future broadband users can look forward to not only cheaper, faster broadband, but the ability to purchase ADSL without the need to buy a Telecom phoneline, a tidal wave of new services, information and entertainment delivered over broadband, and a truly fair and competitive environment.

(Continues overleaf)

#### CONTACT DETAILS

**Postal:** PO Box 99856, Newmarket, Auckland

**Office:** Level 3, Textile Centre, Kenwyn Street, Parnell, Auckland

**Office Hours:** 9am to 5pm weekdays

**Phone:** (09) 916 0300

**Fax:** (09) 916 0301

**Email:** support@quicksilver.co.nz

**Website:** www.quicksilver.co.nz

**Webmail page:** webmail.quicksilver.net.nz

**Helpdesk:** (8.30am-10pm, 7 days, Public Holidays 9am-5pm):

**0508 QSILVER (0508 774583)**

## Mini Golf Onehunga

Quicksilver staff recently headed to the very popular Mini Golf Onehunga, for a quick (but competitive) round of mini golf. to de-stress. It's often not easy to find an entertaining activity to suit a mixed group, but mini golf is making a comeback, thanks to Quicksilver customer Michael Toon. Michael quit his high paying finance job to fulfil a life long dream and put mini golf back on the map. The old Onehunga mini golf has now been transformed into a beautiful course, rich in native trees and ponds filled with goldfish.



The course is flood lit for night golf, there's a BBQ area, the course is equipped with surround sound music and, most importantly, excellent astro turf - a straight putt stays straight!

There's plenty of interesting holes like the "Cobra towers" and the "Candy Cain Swing". The most interesting though, has to be the crazy 13th hole "driving range". The idea is to smash the ball as hard and high as possible, and if you manage to hit the target you get to knock one off your score.

It is easy to see why mini golf is a popular activity. People from all walks of life come to enjoy an activity that is challenging enough for the most competitive sportsman, but easy enough for kids, and everyone can participate. With ample parking it's perfect for birthdays, social and corporate

groups, as well as a weekend with the family. Even better, the web site features a form to "Challenge a Mate". Fill in your details and the tee off time, and the fun begins!

### SPECIAL OFFER!

Show this newsletter and get **2 for the price of 1** at Mini Golf Onehunga until the end of 2006!

### Contact Details

**Website:** www.mgo.co.nz

**Phone:** 09 6369911

**Email:** minigolfonehunga@gmail.com

**Address:**  
61 Selwyn Street  
(shares the carpark with Foodtown),  
Onehunga,  
Auckland.



## Quicksilver Delighted at Govt Broadband Announcement

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Quicksilver has been developing a number of VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) products for launch in 2006, and is shortly due to launch video-on-demand to their broadband customers.

'Naked' DSL (the ability to purchase a DSL service without the requirement to buy a Telecom phoneline) and unconstrained speeds on broadband will enable

services such as VoIP to really flourish.

By 2008, the average Kiwi will have a true choice in who to purchase telephone lines from.

Quicksilver expects that the new Government package will stimulate significant investment in the NZ telecommunications industry, and a significant increase in services

such as VoIP, Video-on-Demand, and streaming audio and video.

Quicksilver has been investing in VoIP technology, and we intend to increase our activity in this area."

Quicksilver is a founding member of industry lobby group ISPANZ, which has worked since 2005 to improve the broadband situation in NZ.

# Surfing with Quicksilver

## THE JUNE NIGHT SKY

June is the month with the longest nights and shortest days. June is a good month for observing the planets. All 5 major planets, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, are visible, although Mercury will not be visible for the first few days of the month.

**Mercury** will be visible in the Western evening sky for all but the first few days of June. By June 4 it sets at 18:01, by June 25 at 18:55 and at 18:52 by month's end. It starts the month in the constellation of Taurus, moving into Gemini on June 4, and finally into Cancer on June 26.

**Mars** will be visible for the first hour or so of the night. At the start of the month it sets at 20:27 and at 20:04 by month's end. Mars is in the constellation of Cancer.

**Saturn** will be visible for the first hour or so of the night. At the start of June it sets at 21:13 and at 19:34 by month's end. Saturn is in the constellation of Cancer, in which it remains until September.

**Jupiter** will be visible for the first three quarters of the night. At the start of June it sets at 05:13 and at 03:10 by month's end. Jupiter is in the constellation of Libra, in which it remains until December.

**Venus** will be visible for the last hour or so of the night in the Eastern sky. At the start of the month it rises at 04:23 and at 05:22 by month's end. Venus starts the month in the constellation of Pisces, moving into Aries on June 2 and finally into Taurus on June 19.

### Phases of the Moon

First Quarter – June 4 at 11:06.

Full Moon – June 12 at 06:03.

Last Quarter – June 19 at 02:08.

New Moon – June 26 at 04:05.

### Winter Solstice

The Southern hemisphere Winter Solstice

is at 00:26 on June 22. This is when the Sun is at its most Northerly point in the sky and therefore at its lowest altitude at the middle of the day in the Southern hemisphere. Mathematically this means that the longest night is June 21/22 and the shortest day is June 22. We say "mathematically", as the nights and days are longer or shorter than the adjacent nights and days by only a few seconds, whereas actual Sunrise and Sunset times can vary by up to 3 or 4 minutes due to atmospheric conditions. This large variation means that any of the nights or days around the Solstice could actually be the longest or shortest.

All times are for Wellington. Other centres may vary by a few minutes.

Information from  
Brian Carter, Carter Observatory  
The National Observatory Of New Zealand  
(<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0605/S00138.htm>)