

The Orford Occasional

"courage mounteth with occasion" – Shakespeare

From an inch to a mile...



It started as a trickle. Initially just a few caravanners and tents snuck into a free night behind the Orford Cricket Club. The best little camping ground at Raspin's Beach had mysteriously been closed and the poor buggers had nowhere to camp, so why complain. And then the word got around. Free camping at the Orford recreation ground! Free! And then a good free spot directly behind the Orford Bowls Club became a popular overnighter for gentlemanly-behaved men-in-white who brought their own firewood to the best and free little camping ground on the East Coast. But who were they last night (Saturday, November 8) who converged as tent city about the Orford Cricket Club? A happy little community ranging in age from five to adulthood in tents and booze and noise galore. Possibly about 30. The day before some young blokes had been sent to whipper-snip and clear the ground for the invasion force. By four pm the tents were flapping in the feisty wind and the partying was well under way. With so many very young people in camp, there was an expectation that the assembly's noisy revelling

might come to an end by dark. By 10 pm, a bellicose voice rose beyond the boompah car stereo system, and spiralled with the camp fire smoke for everyone to hear, along with booze-induced courageous and vulgar threats of violence. Not a place to visit given the potential for physical retribution should a neighbour ask for the noise-level to be lowered. Calling the cops isn't a consideration. In the order of things, this doesn't warrant attention from a one-man station, so late at night. Just as dawn broke, the music died and the tribal instincts of the visitors dissipated into the morning song of the magpie. It's the first time there's been a big, noisy camper's party behind the Orford Bowls Club, with accompanying noisy cars. And so the noisy night is now only in the memory of some very angry and tired residents, who now anticipate with great justification, much of the same in the future. On record at Council is the reply from a former mayor to a complaint over midnight burn-outs in the past and a request that the gates be shut at night... that the Orford Cricket Ground is a 24-hour recreational facility. Last night proved that nothing has changed...except neighbourly tolerance of an inch that grew into a mile.

...and there goes the neighbourhood!



Happy campers prepare for a late night of revelry on the Orford cricket grounds.



*top photo:
free-camping behind
the bowls club*



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A great place for a piss-up.