

'DOOFING' AND THE POLITICS OF SURVIVAL IN THE BYRON SHIRE

This project was an exploratory qualitative study with young people aged between 18 and 25 years who attend 'doof parties' in the Byron Shire region of Northern New South Wales, Australia. The purpose of the research was to consider the politico-cultural significance of the Australian 'bush-doof' for contemporary youth. The bush-doof is a localised form of Electronic Dance Music (EDM) party held in a bushland setting. It is argued that the bush doof provides a space for young people to reject forms of commoditised and over-regulated night-time leisure associated with (semi)urban environments. Associated with this is an expression of a shared ecological consciousness that finds its primary form of articulation in the rural setting of the bush doof event.

Findings suggest that bush doofs are important spaces for young people to congregate and fulfil their need for connectedness, community and belonging. These findings complement previous research that shows how attending doof parties has deeper symbolic meaning associated with the countercultural ideologies and rejection of conventional and commercial leisure practices promoted by the tourism industry in the region (Canosa, 2018).

Research Team

Investigators: Dr Antonia Canosa (CCYP, SCU) and Prof Andy Bennett (Griffith University) members of the [Regional Music Research Group \(RMRG\)](#).

Outputs to Date

Canosa, A. & Bennett, A. (2020). Urban vibes in a rural setting: A study of the 'bush doof' scene in Byron Shire, *Journal of Youth Studies*. doi: 10.1080/13676261.2020.1730772

Canosa, A. (2018). Consumption, Leisure and 'Doof' Neo-Tribes in the Byron Shire. In Bennett, A., Hardy, A. & Robards, B. (Eds), *Neo-Tribes: Consumption, Leisure and Tourism* (pp. 153-167). ISBN: 978-3-319-68207-5. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. Link: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-68207-5_10

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