

The Delusions of Christmas Past

Written by Lauren Rosewarne, Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne



Because Baby Jesus would have wanted it this way...

September 21 and it's started already.

No, not the ever-earlier encroachment of Christmas. (My view on that particular "lament" is that if consumers *really* cared, they'd vote with their wallets and force stores not to brandish their baubles until December. But we don't so they don't).

Rather, it's September 21 and I've spotted my first "won't someone think of the children/Baby Jesus" story.

News.com.au this morning [published a true tale of contemporary woe](#) : Big W are selling gloriously fake trees - no problem there, Jesus was, big time, all about the plastic - in boxes that *don't* include the word Christmas. Without the C-word, apparently, we're completely lost at sourcing the perfect festive erection for our loungerooms.

Pushing aside my curiosity about a world where the midnight social media musings of a handful of pearl-clutchers make the news, nonetheless, here we are in our [outrage culture](#) where this kind of malarkey has a well-established audience.

Such a story slips nicely into the dross news file with copy about council carol ceremoniess singing less [First Noel](#) and more [Feliz Navidad](#) . Such a story sits comfortably alongside the "political correctness gone awry", "Christianity trampled by heathens/Muslims", "Christmas losing its meaning" faux-rage pieces that'll be foisted upon us a'plenty in the coming months.

Stories *tailor-made* for right-wing radio hosts and nutjobs with net access.

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