



Annual Report 2007/08

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Executive Summary

Overall Activity and Funding Level

Overall funding for the Trust has increased further compared to previous years to a total of \$126,000 from all sources. The biggest contributor to this was grants, which increased to 119,000 compared to 92,000 in the previous year. The Trust's self-generated income has fallen mainly due to a major donor in 2007 not being able to maintain that donation level.

The overall increase in income masks the fact that income for the Christchurch operations have decreased by \$15,000. There are several reasons for this, most notably the drop in donations mentioned before and a drop in support from the Christchurch City Council. This is bad news as the Christchurch operations are the driver for the Trust, and activity levels in Christchurch have been particularly high this year.

However, significantly more financial support than before was available for Auckland enabling us to increase hours for our Regional Coordinator. Also, our New Babies Edition project received a funding boost, and this project alone is responsible for \$45,000 in income and most of our national expenditure (the other big national item being production of Father & Child magazine).

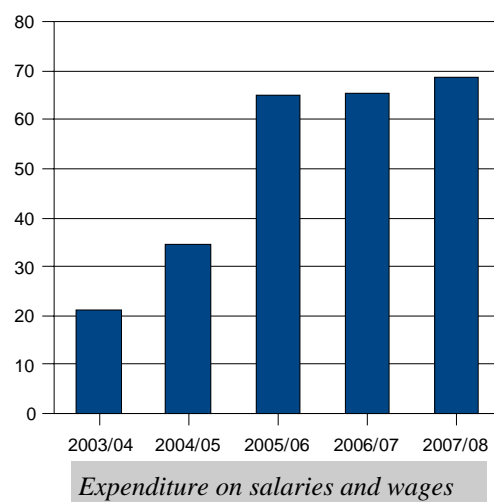
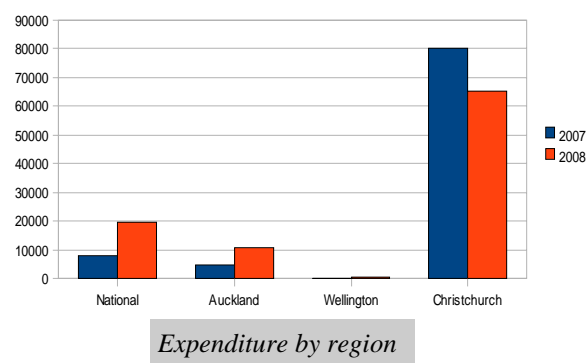
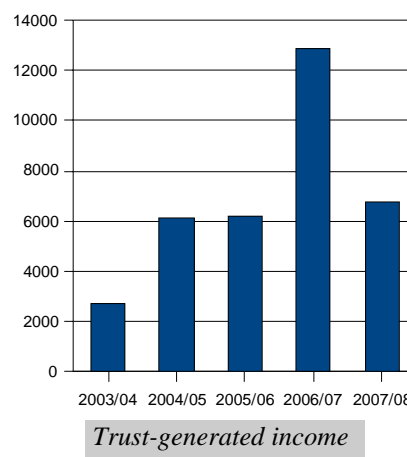
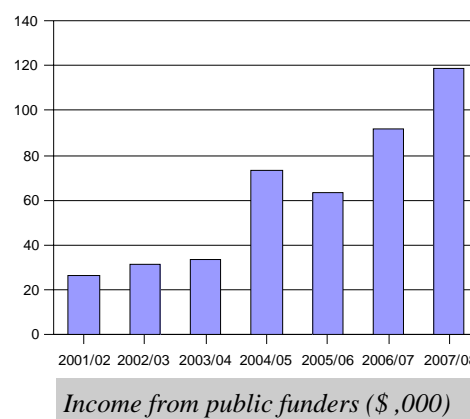
For the first time the Trust did not use any WINZ wage subsidies to fund its employment.

Summary of Trust Services and Activities

The biggest activity in 2007/08 was the development of the **New Babies Edition of Father & Child** magazine, which was nearly completed by the end of the financial year and took up a large share of both paid and volunteer time in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington.

New dads otherwise were less of a focus this year. For many years the Trust had maintained a four-hour a week position for work in antenatal classes and one-on-one work with new dads where necessary. This had been integrated into the other Trust positions, but we are expecting overall much higher activity after the New Babies Edition will be released. In April 2007 I had been invited by the Palmerston North Parents Centre to give a talk about the importance of dads for babies. This was repeated in May 2008.

Another cross-regional project mentioned in our strategy for the year, a **research project on solo fathers** with sole



custody of young children, did not attract the funding necessary to make it happen. Development of the project has commenced regardless, and a questionnaire has been designed and reviewed for use in a study.

The Trust advanced solo fathers as a target group in Christchurch more than in previous years. For the first time we were able to charge Child Youth and Family for work with a young sole father, and we participated in the first WINZ career programme for sole fathers on the Domestic Purposes Benefit. An article I wrote about solo fathers of girls was published in the Press earlier this year.

In Christchurch, the **Teen Dads programme** attracted even more interest—and work—than in previous years. Referrals of teenage fathers have increased, and we are especially working more with the Youth Justice section of Child Youth and Family. In March this year payment of about \$3,500 from CYF has been approved for work with one young dad, and there are likely to be others in the future.

We have also worked even more closely with Waipuna Trust. A joint research application to the Families Commission about the partners of teen mothers was declined, but Waipuna is in general interested in making their teen parenting services more inclusive to young men. As one of the main drivers in Christchurch in the field of teenage parenthood they have taken great care in getting our input for any new initiatives. The Press has published an article of mine last November about the failure of services to include teenage fathers.

In **Auckland** our efforts have gone into establishing a presence and gauge opportunities of working with community service providers. We have also been looking for more people (fathers) who can support our Regional Coordinator, Brendon Smith and who can, eventually, provide competent representation on the overall Trust committee. I have also increased the frequency of my visits to Auckland to help with organisational issues and developing a plan.

Father & Child magazine continued as before, and four issues were produced in the year. We have been offered substantial help with design by Strategy Design and Advertising in Christchurch, who also sponsored the design of the New Babies Edition. This will need to be developed in the coming year.

Overall 08/09 has been a particularly exciting and busy year for the Trust. One of our long-term goals is to be prepared for the time when government will start to fund services for fathers and initiatives aimed at improving family services overall, as is happening in other countries such as the UK. In the last year we have established new, or closer, partnerships in the community and have made some progress toward reaching outside Christchurch. With every year we are gathering more experience in what works and what doesn't, and we keep getting better at what we are doing.

Highlights 2007/08

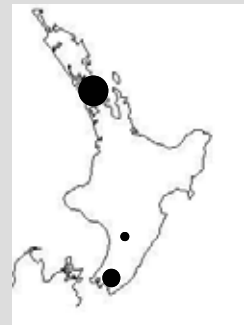


New Babies Edition:

Development almost complete, ready for distribution from June 08. Largest Trust project to date (\$45,000 over 12 months period)

Teen Dads:

First trial of parent education for teen *couples*. Increasing referrals from youth justice system.



North Island:

More funding for Auckland Father & Child. Dads & Babies talk for Palmerston North Parents Centre. Wellington: Liaison with Ministry of Health, Conferences and Meetings.

Frontline Support

This year it appears that we have been to more CYF Family Group Conferences than ever before, both Care and Protection and Youth Justice ones. We also helped more clients apply for Protection Orders than before, although this remains very difficult for men. In general we have been able to help our clients achieve satisfactory outcomes for their children and themselves.

For the first time we have been able to obtain significant financial assistance from Child Youth and Family for clients they refer. This concerned a single custodial father with a little daughter, and an expecting teenage father. Within CYF there will be much higher awareness of what the Trust has to offer as a result.

For adults, self-referral (or referral through a close family member or spouse) remains by far the most common way to establish initial contact. Most commonly this happens via an initial phone call, occasionally via email and sometimes by drop-in. Referrals by other agencies are generally limited to individual workers within a service. They came from Plunket, Early Start, Princess Margaret Hospital, Christchurch Women's Hospital, CYF, City Mission and others. As we are getting enquiries and requests for help from other parts of the country as well, it has been good to be able to refer cases to our Regional Coordinator in Auckland where appropriate.

Drop-in times were used predominantly by existing clients, especially those who were struggling to (re-)establish a relationship with their child. The most common users, however, are teen dads, who often re-appear out of nowhere, and for who this is clearly an important way to find support as dads.



George and Cory*

George is a father with multiple disabilities, both physical and intellectual. His son Cory is now 12 years old.

George lived in a very abusive relationship with Cory's mother and was beaten regularly. After they had separated it was initially difficult for him to get contact with Cory, and he sought help from us.

We worked with him quite intensively, and in the middle of last year George obtained full care of Cory, which he hadn't originally sought, but which was the best and safest option for son.

George still drops in regularly, mainly for parenting advice.

Allen *

Allen has a son (12) and a daughter (14), both of whom he hadn't seen for many years due to heavy resistance from the mother. We helped him re-establish contact with the children and in the process found that the environment they lived in was not very safe.

Once contact was re-established, Allen had to overcome the Parental Alienation that had occurred in his children. His son especially did not want to talk to him at all initially. Both children also had behavioural and mental health problems. However they soon actively sought out their father beyond the official visit times. Within a few months, first his daughter and then his son ended up living with him.

Codi and Mike*

Codi has a baby son, Mike, to a partner with mental health problems that had required several periods of hospitalisation in her past. While the three got on fairly well as a family, Codi felt sidelined by the health and community workers working with his partner, and even felt they were hostile towards him.

Codi mainly comes in for individual support sessions, especially when his relationship is going through a difficult phase.

*** All names changed**

Resources

Father & Child Magazine / New Babies Edition

After, unexpectedly, having been turned down by the Enterprising Communities fund the New Babies Edition project found some financial support with the Canterbury and ASB Community Trusts, allowing us to go ahead with it.

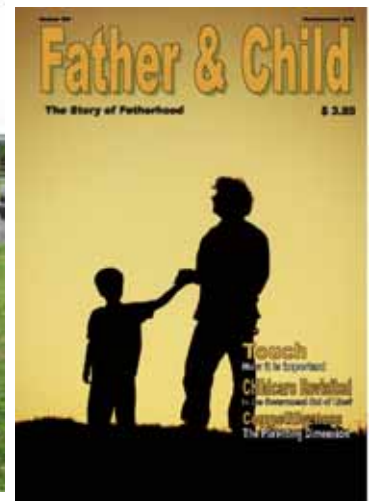
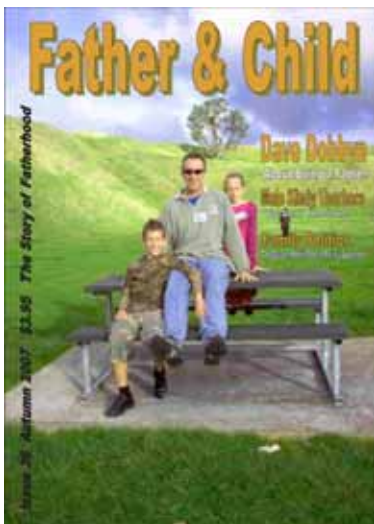
It has been a major boon to have the support of Strategy Advertising and Design, a Christchurch-based professional design company, who looked after the layout of the magazine for us without charging. The result is a very professional looking magazine, which dads should find easy to pick up and browse in.

The idea of the New Babies Edition is to provide some balance to the range of parenting and parenthood publications targeted at mothers and to promote the idea of parenting as a partnership between mothers and fathers. The content does not double up on baby care information, which is freely available elsewhere, including the Bounty Birth Pack. Instead, the magazine covers birth stories, early childhood development and the father's special role in it, postnatal depression, blended families, legal issues, and first-hand accounts of different work/family arrangements.

Once published, the Trust has obtained the funding to distribute through the Bounty Birth Pack in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington for six months, reaching 90% + of parents with a new baby according to Bounty figures.

As a publication with significant circulation we hope to derive an independent income from it in the long term through advertising, and also to increase circulation of our regular magazine through increased interest. As expected it has been difficult to sell advertising for issue #1 as companies are cautious to commit before they have seen the result. This should be getting progressively easier over the years.

This year has been steady for Father & Child magazine, with our usual four issues produced. The plan is to hand over design of this publication to Strategy as well eventually.



Fatherandchild.Net

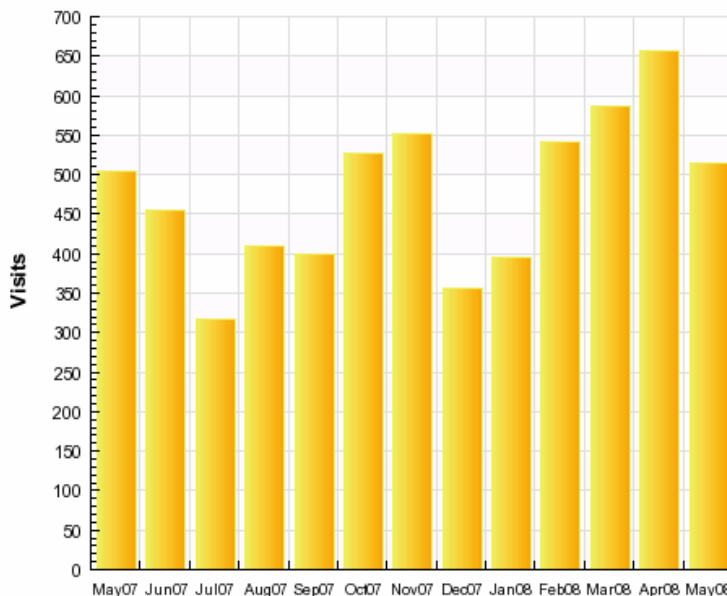
Web site usage has been further edging upwards throughout most of the year (with the usual exception of the summer months), overall achieving about 30% more site visits than in 2006/07. The New Zealand proportion of visits has declined somewhat to just under 70% from 75% in the previous year, indicating that a bigger portion of the growth comes from overseas. Nevertheless I think we can be pleased with the high New Zealand proportion, which indicates that it reaches our target groups quite well.

An upgrade had been attempted once again this year, when a volunteer offered to re-design the site, but eventually surrendered before the sheer size of it. Web site upgrades have not been a part of the Trust's Strategy for the last few years and therefore have a low priority. As an information source for enquiries, and simply to publish our work, it meets the requirements, and there aren't any resources to do more.

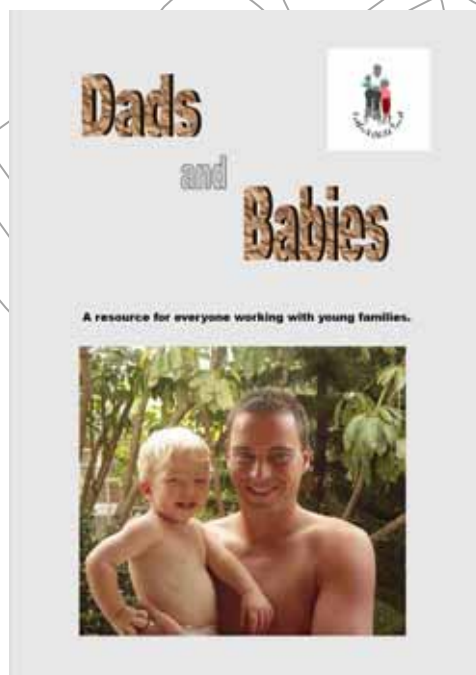
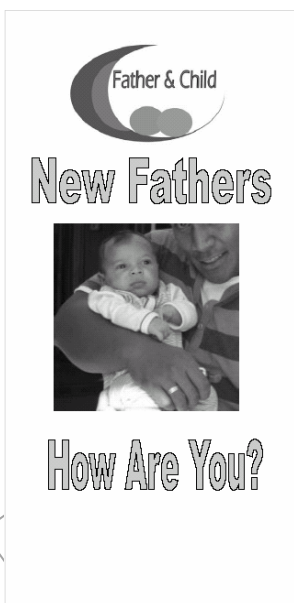
Others

This year's strategy and budget allowed for printing of Dads and Babies, a resource for providers of health and social services in the 'maternity' sector. Unfortunately, funding fell short of budget and we are still printing out the resource on demand on our office printer. Some work went into reducing it from A4 to A5 size and updating it.

The same applies to pamphlets describing our services. We have five different ones, all being printed on demand on our office printer, depending on target group: Teenage Fathers, Separated Fathers, New Fathers, Providers & Referrers, and Auckland.



Visit Trend May 07—May 08



Teenage Fathers

Our 'flagship' programme for teenage fathers has drawn even more attention than in previous years, and two of the some young men have now been in the programme for more than two years. Both are now 17, with two year old children (one boy and one girl). They have been continuously present in the lives of their children and also both maintain a relationship with the mother. Despite less than favourable backgrounds neither has come to police attention in the last year and, although still erratic, both are showing more stable employment or education patterns.

Given the otherwise almost universal course of events for teenage fathers these outcomes are amazing. A key has been our ability to maintain relationships not just with the young men but also their families, their partners, and their partners' families. Conflicts that for teenagers easily spiral out of control and often result in the exclusion of the father from the life of his child could be tackled early this way.

The Trust has worked closely in the past year with Waipuna Trust and the new MSD-funded Teen Parent Service Coordinator, Joanne Hope. We are talking about creating both childbirth and parent education that is targeted at young couples (or, at least, both parents even if not in a relationship) rather than just the mother, and a very positive first trial has been run in March this year. A joint proposal for research on the fathers of babies born to teen mothers has been turned down twice by the Families Commission in the last year, however.

A Public Health nurse working with teenage parents in the UK, Tracey Baldock-Apps, visited Christchurch in February this year on an information-gathering trip, and the Trust was on her list. She was instrumental in creating resources for teen parents in the UK, and we were impressed with the natural way these resources are targeted at both mothers and fathers, instead of having different ones for either. We have started using some of them for our own work.

There was a re-run of our parenting course for teen dads at Paparua Prison in January this year. This was first done in November 2006.

Child Youth and Family has shown increased interest in our work with teen dads and has started referring more of them to us, often through Youth Justice. We work on the basis that becoming a father usually provides the impetus for young men to make major changes in their lives, provided their role as fathers is supported and acknowledged. In one case that Youth Justice referred in March the teen dad has so far refused to engage with anyone, but opened up quite readily to us and CYF has provided funds to build that relationship. In response to CYF referrals we have adopted the approach that we only accept those if they come with funds attached.



We attended a youth health conference in July last year where I presented a paper on inclusion of teen fathers in services. A summary of it was also printed in the Press.

Our web site www.teendads.org.nz remained up and running, although not updated very often, and it generates some enquiries. There are moves underway to create a web site which caters to both, teen dads and mums.

Single Fathers

The 2008/09 Strategy specified research on single fathers as one of the outcomes. However, despite fathers being one of the 'target' groups of a new research fund created last year by the Families Commission, our application was declined. This was the second time the Trust had put forward a research proposal on solo dads, the last one in association with Canterbury University Dept of Family Psychology in 2006, which was also declined. This is frustrating and, together with the refusal of funding our joint proposal with Waipuna Trust on teen dads, is not giving us much confidence that the Families Commission is, indeed, an unbiased advocate for 'all families' in New Zealand.

The project was advanced regardless and we have got to the stage of completing the development of the questionnaire to be used by the interviewers (as well as some to be filled in by the interviewees), and having it reviewed by independent (from us) researchers. Another attempt will be made to seek funding for the actual operational phase, this time with a newly created community research fund with Lottery.

However, the Trust was able to obtain funds from Child Youth and Family to work with a solo father raising a young girl (14 months at the start of our involvement) over a limited period of time, a first for us. We also managed to get a fairly large article into the Press about girls raised by solo fathers (titled Motherless Children).

WINZ-funded 'Career Services' has asked us to present at their career course for solo fathers on the DPB. This was a first for them, as funding for the course is usually restricted to solo mothers. Feedback was very positive.



Auckland



Much emphasis was put this year in finding support for building the Auckland branch, and several meetings were held with interested guys. We were also more 'out there', participating in events such as the Waitakere 'Toddlers Day Out' with a stall, or the 'Teddy Bears Picnic'.

While there are a number of men's groups and initiatives in Auckland that we liaised with, father-specific services are

There has been interest by 'West Health', the Auckland West PHO, to start something for teenage fathers to complement their work with teen mothers, and we are involved in the project.

Some teen dads projects, such as the web site or a proposed cellphone service, operate on a national basis and it is important to involve partners in various centres. From that point of view it was disappointing that the two Auckland-based MSD-funded Teen Parent Service Coordinators do not appear to be active at all on behalf of teen dads (one of the contracts is held by a local women's organisation).

There has been some liaison with West Auckland Parents Centre who will run our Dads and Babies talk next year. A little south of Auckland, Palmerston North Parents Centre has run our Dads and Babies talk in April last year, and have done a repeat in May 08.

Administration and Employment

Some changes have been made to the way we record income and expenditure, which is now spread over three subsidiary ledgers: Christchurch, Auckland and New Babies Edition. This is to better track income tagged for either location, and to separate the finances of the New Babies Edition from either.

The office computer system has been updated using a storage server and an external hard drive as a very economical alternative to a full office server. The change allows data to be stored in a central place rather than on the hard drives of individual computers, and also allows authorised access from the outside via internet. This last change in particular is expected to allow better data communication between Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, and it also gives Board members instant access to relevant documents such as previous minutes, financial updates or reports. The total cost of this upgrade was \$460, a mere fraction of quotes received for any other solution.

The Board has passed a new financial policy, defining the monitoring role of the Treasurer, the spending authorisation by the Coordinator, use of internet banking, and authorisations for funding applications and accountability reports. For the most part it simply combines individual Board decisions made over the last years.

The only employment changes this year have come mainly from the need to co-opt some help with the production of the New Babies Edition. Our permanent employees and main responsibilities are:



Harald Breiding-Buss, Coordinator: management of Trust finances and operations as well as the New Babies Edition project, liaison with other agencies on an organisational level, courses and talks especially for and about new fathers (including teenage fathers), Father & Child magazine.



Jonathan Young, Project Support Worker: frontline support for individual clients, liaison with other agencies on an individual level, youth work (teen dads), drop-in facility.



Brendon Smith, Auckland Regional Coordinator: coordination and set-up of Auckland branch, liaison on both organisational and individual levels, Father & Child magazine, New Babies Edition and other resources.



Employees on a casual or fixed-term basis:

Mark Stephenson, Wellington Regional Coordinator: coordinated sections of the New Babies Edition. On a voluntary basis: liaison with Wellington-based government and its agencies, Father & Child magazine, Solo Fathers research.



Lee Brown, Administrator: administrative support since October 07, ie paperwork, staffing drop-in hours.



Jordan Cairns, Youth Advocate: teen dads programme, including participation in a youth conference, liaison with other teen 'parent' agencies, teen dads web site, pamphlets.

Public Relations

Conferences and Seminars

We participated in, and presented at, the Youth Health Conference in Christchurch in June last year. Our talk on inclusion of teen dads in services was well received and well attended (50 or so attendees). In Wellington we attended an Early Childhood Education conference earlier this year, and one on Social Policy: Research and Evaluation in 2007, which fell in the middle of the 'smacking' debate. Reports on these conferences were included in Father & Child magazine.

Political and Media

We had two articles published in the Christchurch Press last year, one on service inclusion for teen dads, and one on solo fathers raising girls. Both were submitted by us and published as submitted. This is much preferable to have the media create their own stories with their own spin.

There has been a steady stream of media requests for information, and fathers to talk to. Many of those requests are the result of reporters finding our web page.

Late last year we have been extensively quoted in a North and South article on single parents.

The one time where we actually contacted media ourselves, to bring attention to our tenth anniversary, around fathers day, we were unsuccessful in generating any stories.

Acknowledgements

I think the Trust can feel quite honored to have received such substantial funding support from the **Canterbury Community Trust**, which allowed us to develop the New Babies Edition and bring it to print, while at the same time still funding our baseline at a substantial level. Throughout our 10 year history the Community Trust has been an exceptionally approachable funder and plays a major role in getting us as far as we did.

Likewise, the **Lottery Grants Board** has provided steady funding support over the years and now supports both the Auckland and Christchurch branches, as well as helping to finance our magazine Father & Child.

The **ASB Community Trust** has been exceptionally helpful for our Auckland branch and gave significant amounts to both, Auckland baseline and New Babies Edition—about \$20,000 in total.

Other funders have provided smaller amounts which were no less appreciated. They were **COGS**, **Southern Trust**, the **Lion Foundation** and the **Christchurch City Council**. Significant donations have been received from the **Rotary Club**, **Blogg Charitable Trust** and **Weft Knitting Co**.

It has been tremendous to have the support and sponsorship of **Strategy Design and Advertising**, who designed our New Babies Edition and produced the print file. This particular sponsorship will make all the difference in the coming year, when the New Babies Edition will be released and hopefully become an ongoing publication. The cost of bringing it up to that standard would have been prohibitive otherwise.

