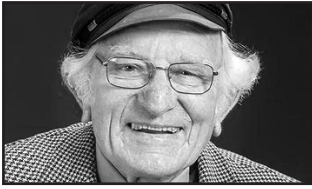
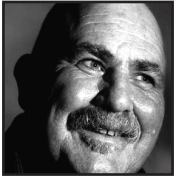


## Typical Tributes for Eagles Programs



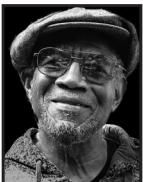
**Professor Tony Taylor,**  
Victoria University of Wellington

**Truly transformational . . .** the content and presentation is outstanding . . . a stunning complex of relevant experiential and solid evidential-based material that should shake many on both sides of the fence to the core.



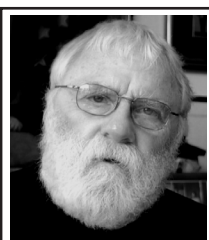
**Denis O'Reilly**  
Black Power  
Lifetime Member

**Way back in 2005, faced by escalating gang tensions and political conservatism,** I persuaded John Wareham to fly out from New York to create and lead a weekend retreat for two gangs: Black Power, and Mongrel Mob. That weekend was transformational for everyone, so much so, that the *New Zealand Herald* declared John a “miracle worker”. John came back in 2011 to facilitate another forum, this time with New Zealand police representatives, 30 Mongrel Mob fathers and sons, and 30 Black Power fathers and sons. Another series of transformations followed, resulting in the creation of the ‘Otataru Accord’—a formal pact between Black Power and Mongrel Mob, which has in turn resulted in the observable reduction of regional gang violence.



**Hassan Gale**  
Eagles New York  
Chapter President

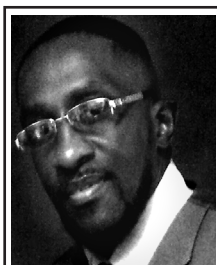
**I've had the misfortune of doing serious time in some of New York's most notorious prisons.** When 20 fellow prisoners signed onto an Eagles program at Wallkill maximum-security prison what happened was truly astonishing. The first session began with a selection of provocative discussion readings—pithy excerpts from contemporary and classic poets, philosophers, psychologists as well as social activists of every ethnicity. Some were liked and some were loathed. But by posing critical questions, John Wareham stoked our insights and opinions, and made every discussion riveting. We realized that our thoughts were vital to our development. And that our ideas truly mattered. Discussions were always respectful and exciting—electric, even—and always wound up with a new set of readings for the next week. And we could hardly wait for the next session. Ultimately, the sum of our encounters transformed our lives. When I was released thirteen years ago, John invited me to become an Eagles instructor. Now I run those programs and train potential facilitators. So, maybe we'll meet up one day. Meantime, you can catch me on our Pulitzer Prize nominated podcast series, *The Breakout Plan*. Peace . . . §



**Jess Maghan Ph.D.**  
Professor and director,  
Forum for Comparative  
Corrections, Ct. USA

**A**s programs director at New York's Rikers Island Correctional Facility, and then director of training for the New York Police Department, I was involved with many prison programs. So, when the Eagles Foundation's program came on the scene I was intrigued. A secular program that introduced inmates to Platonic philosophy, Adlerian psychology, Shakespearean sonnets, civil rights leadership, and parliamentary debating! What kind of starry-eyed crusader could possibly make this work? The

answer turned out to be an expatriate New Zealand business leader working as an unpaid volunteer and applying Kiwi creativity. To the surprise of prison officials, inmates gave the program top ratings for practicality and presentation—and the recidivism rate for graduates plummeted. After running the program in New York prisons for twenty years, John Wareham now splits his time between the USA and New Zealand.



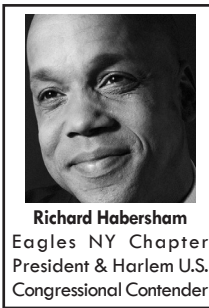
**Anthony McFadden, MSW**  
Eagles Graduate

**I**served fifteen consecutive years in New York prisons, and enrolled in many prison programs. But so many graduates reoffended and returned it was depressing. When John Wareham showed up with the Eagles program, I was a skeptic. What could this weedy white guy possibly have to say to any of us? Well, suddenly he was sharing a bunch of big ideas and treating us as equals. It was like getting pulled into a cram course at a great university. The discussions were electric and the debating and poetry was life-changing. When I got out of jail in 2006, my Eagles credential helped win me an entry level case manager job working with returning ex-offenders. Then my public speaking skills landed me a directorship role and I've never looked back. With other graduates I completed a masters degree in social work. Then I became a licensed drug counselor (CASAC). John also pulled us back into prison—but this time as respected speakers to debate current classes. The Eagles program sure changed my life, and, best of all, the single digit recidivism rate is unequalled.



**Sister Teresa Donworth**  
Fmr Paremoremo Chaplain

**A**s chaplain at Paremoremo prison I sat in on every session of the Eagles inmate rehabilitation program. I was amazed and inspired to see inmates absorbing key ideas from philosophy, psychology and literature. They opened their hearts and welcomed the opportunity to reveal their deepest selves. Attitudes and lives changed before my eyes. The program finale was to be formal debate against a visiting team of top New Zealand Telecom executives—with the inmates to negate the motion that *Pakeha owe Maori a decent living*. They dedicated long hours of research and practice to the challenge, but to be honest, nobody except John Wareham gave them a chance. On debate day, the chapel was jammed with prison personnel, family members, and guests. Nobody will forget what happened next. The visiting team was skilled, confident, and polished. But so were the inmates. The winning team was chosen by a professional adjudicator and audience acclamation. It was a resounding, hands-down win for the inmates! Needless to say, if I ruled the world the Eagles program would feature in every New Zealand prison.



**Richard Habersham**  
Eagles NY Chapter  
President & Harlem U.S.  
Congressional Contender

**W**hen John Wareham invited me to fly to New Zealand's Otatarapa to help deliver a weekend retreat for Black Power and Mongrel Mob gang leaders I was concerned. I have seen and know how Eagles programs transform American criminals into tax-paying citizens. But would our innovations have the same life-altering impact at the other end of the world upon an essentially Maori audience? Well, I needn't have worried. John customized the program to address local issues—including the tragic imbalance of Maori rates of incarceration—and the results were astonishing. Lives were changed, and the gangs drew up a formal Otatarapa Accord which resulted in the significant reduction of local crime. As the locals say, “ma te huruhuru, ka rere te manu—with feathers the bird can fly.”

# Violence absent at gang summit

NZ Herald, March 7, 2005

**Fears of violence between rival gang members meeting alongside** the Sensible Sentencing Trust at the weekend dissolved as patched gang leaders sat side by side listening to the positive messages delivered at a summit relating to law and order, drugs, gangs and community leadership.

The head tutor, New York corporate psychologist John Wareham acted decisively, setting the peaceful tone for what some would later call a miracle.



By the end of the weekend, gang members from both sides pledged to take messages back to create better family situations, and to regather at some stage to keep the process alive. Veteran Mob

member John Nepe-Apatu, who sat throughout side-by-side with a Black Power leader from Wellington, talked of the seed that had been put in the ground, and what the leaders had to do “to make it grow”.

Sensible Sentencing Trust’s spokesman, Garth McVicar, spoke with confidence of what he had heard, as did the organisation’s patron Sir Russell Pettigrew. Both men said they had learned much, and could take messages back to others to help guide change towards the ultimate goals of a society where family prosperity and community safety prevailed.

Mr. Wareham credited Black Power life member and Napier-based gang behaviour consultant Denis O’Reilly with coordinating the successful gathering. Mr. O’Reilly emphasised that it was not about getting the gangs together, but teaching leaders their role in their own destinies, and the destinies of those who relied on them. - *NZPA*

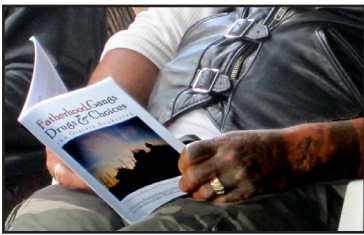
# Hawke's Bay gangs shake on better tomorrow

Hawkes Bay Today, Jan 31, 2011

**John Wareham guided more than 50 gang members** and parents from the community through a wananga, which started on Friday night in the open-air of Turauwha's Whare, on the ridges above the pa site, and continued on Saturday and yesterday at nearby Waiohiki Creative Arts Village.

Side-by-side in respective patches but shelving traditional rivalries, they spent more than 15 hours talking family, violence, drugs and gang pasts, and a future they hope will be better for children and grandchildren.

The focus was a booklet of readings *Fatherhood, Gangs, Drugs and Choices*, selected for the occasion by Mr Wareham, who moderated a similar retreat in Hastings in 2005. "The difference this time was to focus around fatherhood and, right from the first night up at Otatara," said Mr. Wareham. "The guys opened themselves up from the heart," he said, "and most showed profound insight around the readings"—which led Mr Wareham to "push the envelope".



Social activist and organiser Denis O'Reilly said: "It was challenging for everybody. John is not easy. The subject itself was hard. It's a difficult side of town, there's a lot of misunderstanding, and a lot of cynicism... But it was a start, with representatives committing to taking the message back to members and, in time, to other chapters." That commitment came at the closing in the form of 'The Otatara Accord'—

*"Having met in wananga, at Otatara, the leaders of the Mongrel Mob and Black Power who are resident in Hawke's Bay, collectively declare the following intentions: to improve our parenting skills; to support whanau ora; to strive for understanding of each other's issues as a step towards peace on the streets and in the jails."*