



30 JULY 2025

Hoekwil & Touwsrante

Community Dialogue

2025

Meeting
Report

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37th Meeting

Our 37th community dialogue brought together 12 participants from the Touwsranten, Hoekwil, and Wilderness Heights communities, along with representatives from Planet Youth/Sahara. It was a productive and meaningful evening, filled with information-sharing, reflection, and creative thinking.

We missed a few familiar faces and received apologies from:
W/O Jan Kuhn, Morne Heunis, Flip Theron, and Odendaal Esterhuyse.

Welcome and Introduction

Chandré opened the meeting by reminding us why these dialogues began – to create a space where the community can connect, share ideas, learn, and work together. She gave a quick update on one of the community's recent wins – the outdoor gym project – and explained how meeting reports are shared on various platforms to keep everyone informed.



Meeting reports can also be accessed here:



**VIOLENCE
PREVENTION
FORUM**
EVIDENCE
COLLABORATION
TRUST



Check-In: Learning from Each Other

To set the tone, everyone introduced themselves and shared **one thing they've recently learned** that they'd like the community to know. It was a beautiful way to start the meeting, encouraging openness and connection.



Planet Youth & Sahara Input



PARTNER *George South Africa*
Planting Seeds of Change

Dr. Hermann Reuter shared insight into the **Planet Youth** approach, which originated in Europe, and has since been used in many countries around the world. The purpose of the intervention is to **reduce alcohol and substance use among young people by positively changing their school, home and community environments.**



They recently conducted surveys in local high schools across the George area and throughout the Western Cape. 250 schools have participated in the latest wave of data collection. This information, given by children about their substance use helps teens, parents, teachers and community members to know what protects children from risk.

The previous survey found that nearly half of children in the George area have drunk alcohol to get drunk. It also showed that children whose parents don't approve of alcohol use are less likely to get drunk (although they might try it).

Spending time with your children on weekends reduces the likelihood of them drinking alcohol or doing drugs.



Modeling your values and sharing your opinion matters to your children

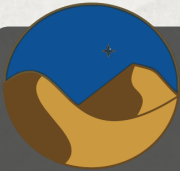


Did You Know?

Teenagers who have to be home by a certain time are less likely to use drugs or get drunk



While Touwsranten wasn't directly surveyed, many children from the area attend schools that were part of the survey, so the data still reflects part of our reality. Feedback will be provided to the schools next month, and **Dr. Reuter promised to return in August** to share more detailed updates with us.



The **Sahara team**, who are active in Touwsranten every Thursday from 9am–3pm, welcomes anyone who would like to get tested for **HIV and TB**. They are also running a support group for people **who would like to stop smoking, drinking, or using drugs**. They've noticed fewer clients since the school holidays and feel that peer pressure is a big factor affecting youth participation. The support group is **open to anyone who lives in our area**.

For more info, the team welcomes contact at 044 050 5007
– no age restrictions apply!

Meet The Convening Team



*A **convening team** is usually the people partly responsible for bringing people together, setting the agenda, and ensuring the continuity and purpose of the dialogue space.

Chandré introduced the **Dialogue Conveners**:

- Sharon Appels
- Odendaal Esterhuyse
- Morné Heunis
- Chandré Gould
- Judy Connors
- Andisiwe Macwecana

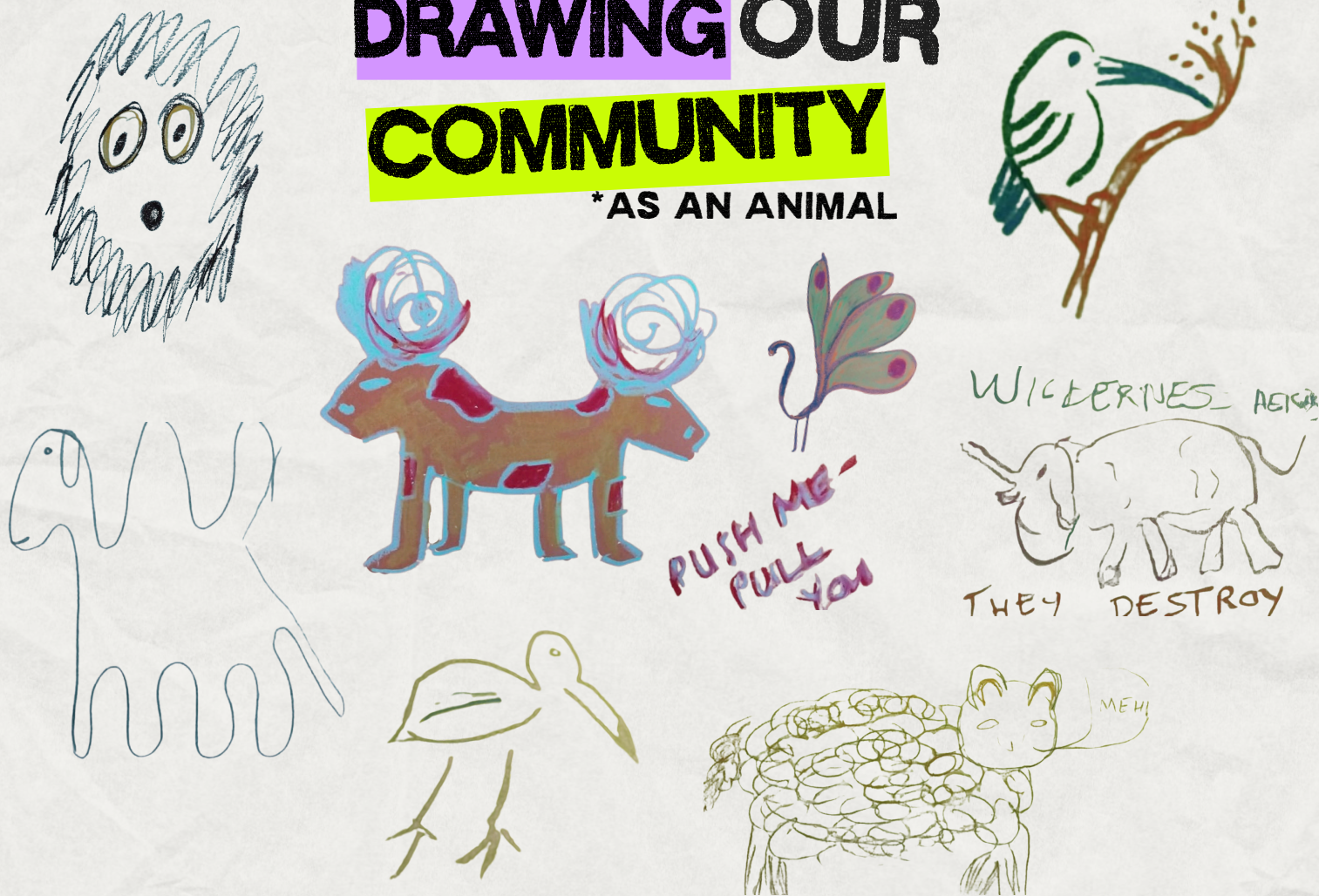
Each member brings their own unique strengths and background. The team is looking for **at least two more members**, so if you're interested or feel called to contribute, please consider joining!



Activity:

We took a creative turn when everyone was asked to **draw an animal that represents their community**. This sparked some rich and meaningful conversations about identity, challenges, and community spirit.

DRAWING OUR COMMUNITY *AS AN ANIMAL



From the drawings and discussions, a few important questions came up that were discussed:

- Could the dialogue serve as a platform for resource-sharing?
- Why are so many local Touwsranten residents unemployed, while members of the Malawian community seem to find work more easily?
- How can we increase awareness in Hoekwil about the employment needs of Touwsranten?
- Why did the job application database to connect people with opportunities not work?

→ Looking Ahead

In our next meeting, we'll receive:

- Feedback from Planet Youth survey results
- Update on the next Market Day
- A powerful personal story from **Collin (Wilderness Heights)** about how the Wilderness Heights community were forcibly removed from Saasveld many years ago.

Check out:

To close the meeting, everyone was asked to share **one value they're taking away** and plan to practice going forward. It was a grounding and inspiring end to a thoughtful evening.

Attendees List

Denzel De Swardt	Sharon Appels	Simon Mtsotana
Collin Wildeman	Tasneem Smith	Sharon Fisher-Buys
Colleen Magner	Nicci Kurz	Dr. Hermann Reuter
	Chandré Gould	