

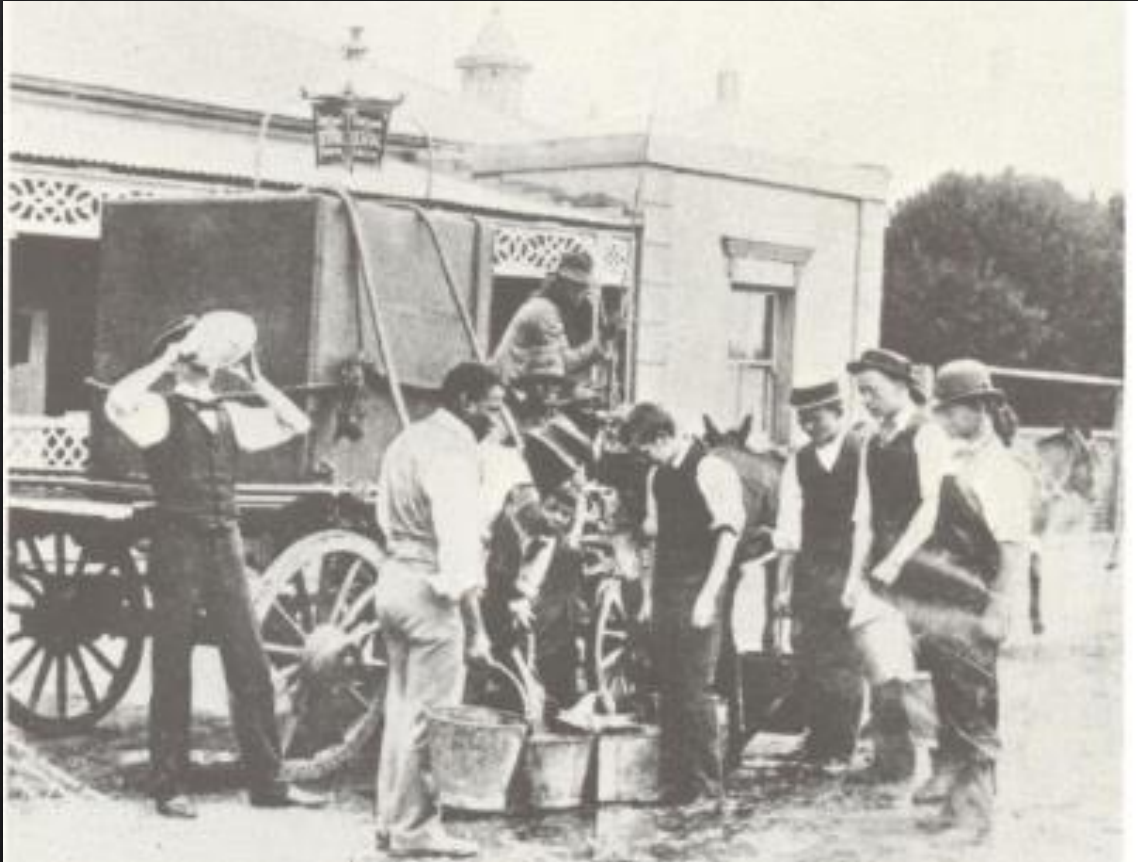
How can **history** help us
think critically about
Johannesburg's water crisis?

“Water no get enemy” Fela Kuti

We need
water, no
matter
what



Johannesburg, 1886 Gold is discovered



1894 Drought:
water carts pulled
by horse and
donkey brought in

There was a law against throwing your
bucket toilet contents onto the street –
people used to discard the contents onto
the road without looking, much to the
dismay of passers by!

Mining and pollution



Heavily polluted Klip River, high levels of heavy metals. Long history, today people use it for baptisms.

Jukskei, Bezuidenhout Valley



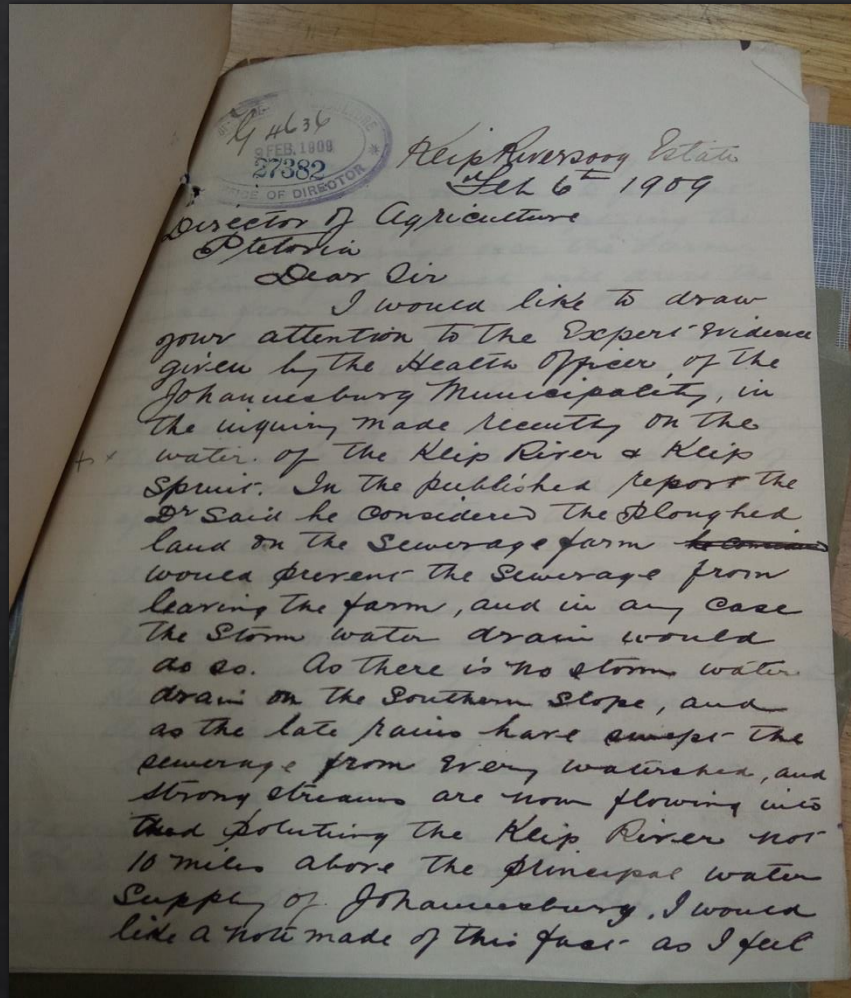
Bruma Lake after much
of the Jukskei became
canals

Braamfonteinspruit, Emmerentia and Delta Park

Protest, Parade of
the Zulu Amawasha
in 1895



The Klip River and Klipspruit



Letter found in the National Archives about the Klip River being “polluted, not ten miles above the municipal water supply”

Klipspruit, 20 years later has high rate of enteritis (stomach illness)

Klipspruit Location. Cases of Enteritis treated by
Dr. Mary Tugman.

September	45
October	46
November	106
December	104

It is obvious that many cases occurred that were never seen amongst people who could not afford a Doctor, so these figures must be rather on the small side.

Vaal Dam in 1938

When dam
dropped to 20%,
old graves
covered by the
dam reappeared



Lesotho Highlands Water Project, Mid-1980s



Homes submerged and fisheries destroyed. People refuse to “die silent”, protest led by women. Yet, the project supplies water to Gauteng’s large population.

Anti-Privatisation Forum



Demand that water, electricity should be free. Highlight injustices over the costing of water

Hangover of history



Water flowing down with toxic minerals from a mine dump in Snake Park, Soweto (photo by Christopher Wehn).

Embedded within the history
are variables to think of,
including race, gender, class,
power and governance.

Thinking around the problems

Given that our rivers, Klip, Braamfontein Spruit and Jukskei have been altered and polluted for so long, who thinks these rivers should be rehabilitated?

Those with **ORANGE** cards to debate and think around: How can these rivers be used and rehabilitated for use? Water needs? What are the problems?

Who believes we should use self-help, individual rather than municipal services, as a means to access water and cater for sewage need? These include wells, boreholes, pit toilets, connections to Rand water pipes?

Those with **GREEN** cards to debate and think around: What are some useful local, individual measures that can contribute to our water security? What are the potential issues of this?

Big water projects – Vaal River in 1914 – and the Lesotho Highlands, water project in the mid-1980s. Who thinks this is the way to go?

Those with **RED** cards to debate and think around: How can we strengthen and create new large systems to meet our water needs? What are the issues with this?