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

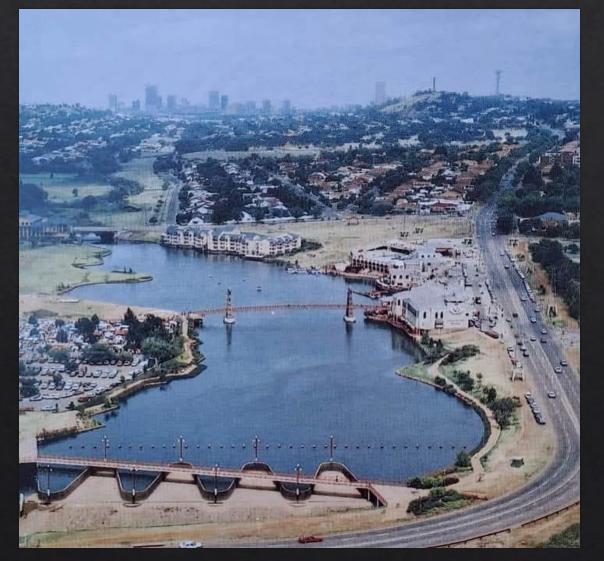
There was a law against throwing your bucket toilet contents onto the street – people used to discard the contents onto the road without looking, much to the dismay of passers by!

Mining and pollution



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

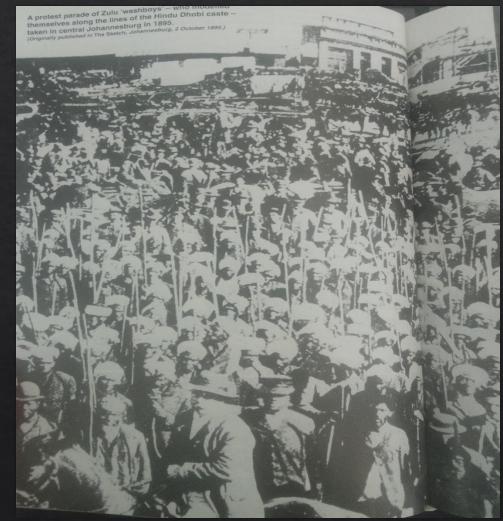
Jukskei, Bezuidenhout Valley



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

Reip Riversory Estates usector of agriculture Ptetoria Dear lir I would like to draw your attention to The Expert Widence given by the Seatthe Officer of the Johannesburg Municipality, in The unquing made recently on The water. of the Klip River & Klip Sprint. In The published report the Dr Said he Considered The ploughed land on the Sewerage farm to com would prevent The Sewerage from leaving The farm, and in any case The Storm water drain would do so. To There is no storm water. draw on The Southern Slope, and as the late pairs have surger The sewerage from Every watershea, and strong etreams are now flowing into That potenting the Klip Rever not 10 miles above The plinespal water Supper of Schauseburg, I would like a host made of this face - as I yel

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 October November December	45 46 106 104
It is obvious that many	y cases occurred that were never
seen amongst people who could	ld not afford a Doctor, so these
figures must be rather on th	ne small side.

Vaal Dam in 1938

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



Lesotho Highlands Water Project, Mid-1980s



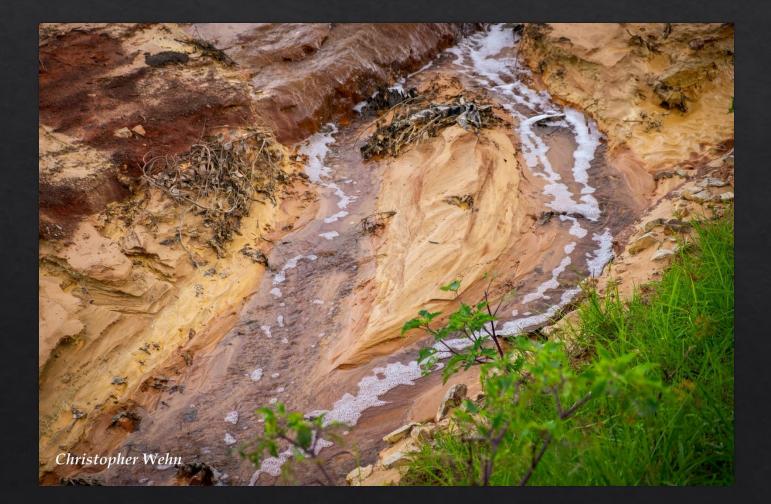
Homes submerged and fisheries destroyed. People refuse to "die silent", protest led by women. Yet, the project supplies water to Gauteng's large population.

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?