

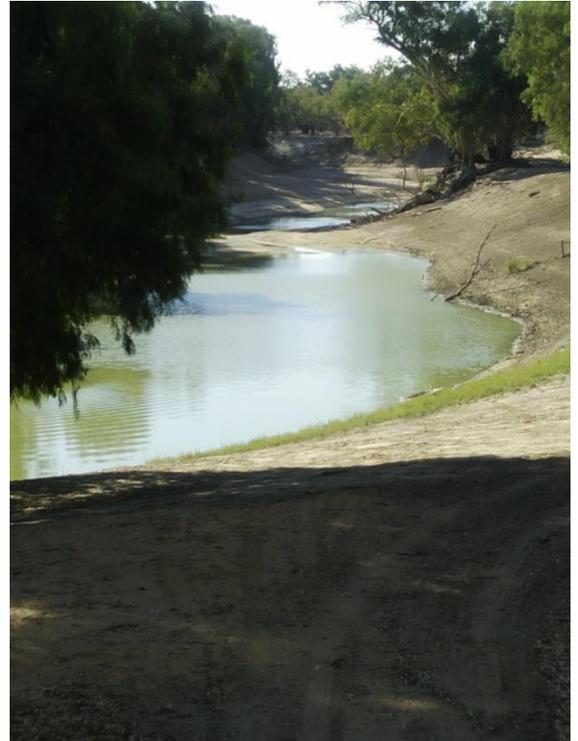
**As I write today (18 Dec.)** we have another 40<sup>0</sup>C degree day. My poor garden is surviving on the bare minimum of water in eked out amounts from my various tap timers. Today I also pulled the intake line out of the lower dam and fished out gunk from the intake valve which was conveniently clogging up the non-return valve and letting all the water I just pumped run straight back into the dam! Aaah, the joys of country living!

This year has been a similar one to the last with concerts, teaching and leading my choir in South Melbourne. What has been different though is that I have taken up Pilates and Yoga and trying more or less successfully to commit to these once per week each. I'm the one that generally falls over and cannot balance while all the ladies (I'm the cat amongst the pigeons!) do their downward dogs and swimming (a horrible exercise which means lying on your tummy and lifting and moving legs and arms in rapid swimming type motions) with the greatest of ease.

The latest exercise news is that I have bought a you beaut bicycle with bells and whistles and all the latest gear; I too can now be an ofil (old fart in lycra) except I'll wear my normal paint streaked shorts and worn out tee shirts rather than go all modern with the lycra!

Highlights for the year were the car camping trip around Easter to outback NSW and my 60<sup>th</sup>.

The camping was for almost three weeks and took me from Lake Mungo through Mutawingee National Park through Bourke and finally up to Lightning Ridge before heading down just inside of the Dividing Range to places such as Gulgong and Temora. I more or less followed the course of the Darling River and noted how the river had become a series of large slimy green pools. (see right)



It was a nice trip and I'd do it again. Here I am at the Mt Kaputar National Park in the middle of NSW.

For my 60<sup>th</sup> I had family and friends and therefore a nice crowd in a relaxed atmosphere. I even put up on one of the windows a display of my time line and many of my concert programmes and flyers in a hastily arranged "look, this is me" display. Many people still look at it and comment positively as I haven't taken it down since June, so it might stay there a

little longer. I included some rare photos of me such as you see. Guess which one is me!

Wish me well as I try to navigate to catching up with paperwork and decluttering these holidays as well as maybe even getting ahead on some administrative things. I might even be able to keep the garden going in all this heat! In between my goal is also to exercise on my new bike, go walking lots and practice even more.

Peter

**Stop Press: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec we had 46<sup>0</sup>C degrees**

