

PO BOX 200 CAMBERWELL VICTORIA 3124

**40TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE 25- 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

[Date]

Dear [name]

Entitled OHTA AT 40 : FOCUS ON FULLER, the Conference will present a number of papers on the organ building work of Melbourne organbuilder Alfred Fuller, evaluate the work of OHTA on its 40th birthday, and examine trends which might emerge in the near future; as well as hear and play many instruments, both small and great.

The purpose of this email is to advise that OHTA offers six bursaries, divided between interstate and local residents, for organ students under the age of 25 years.

Bursaries to the conference are valuable in that they cover the conference fee, coach travel, accommodation [except if you live within 40kms of Melbourne CBD] and meals that are included in the conference. [Some meals eg in rural areas are included, but others would need to be bought.]

Applicants would need not to be current or past members of OHTA, and would be full-time students. Evidence of age and study status would need to be furnished with the application.

[organ building apprentices]

In return for the bursary, recipients would be required to play at least two of the demonstrations during the conference. These are five minutes of music suited to the style of organ being heard, and which illustrates as many of the sounds available.

OHTA also requires that bursary recipients contribute a paragraph or two about the conference, within the weeks immediately after the event, which we may use later.

**The cut-off date for applications is 30 June 2017.**

The OHTA Annual Conference is a superb way to appreciate the wealth of instruments we have in this relatively young settlement, and to explore ways in which we can all contribute positively to the preservation and nurturing of our own culture into the future.

It is also a valuable opportunity to network with other significant people in the Australian organ world.

As Europe is our research area for so much of the basic repertoire, we still have remarkable tonal examples in Australia, and an appreciation of our own cultural worth is as important as due reverence for our more distant forebears. And, to be frank, if we don’t support our own acoustic instruments, the electronic versions will increasingly be the only option.

As the face of the up-coming generation of organists, I would encourage you to attend the Conference, and to apply for the Bursary.

Please contact me for further information.

Kind regards,

(on behalf of the Conference Planning Committee)

(please reply to …)