

Dubai

Itinerary

**NZ LAW & NZ CA Combined
Offshore Conference**

Friday 13 to Friday 20 June 2025



Welcome

The 2025 NZ LAW & NZ CA Combined Offshore Conference is being held in Dubai, the largest city in the United Arab Emirates.

Dating back to the mid-1800s, Dubai was a small fishing village, home to just 800 people. These first Bedouin settlers were led by the Maktoum family, who continue to govern Dubai to the present day. Over the following decades, Dubai developed into a centre for precious pearls, however the discovery of oil in 1966 sparked a near-miraculous transformation, turning a sleepy coastal town into a global metropolis in just 40 years.

With its dramatic, ever-changing skyline rising above the desert sand, and ancient Middle-Eastern traditions blending seamlessly with ultra-modern luxury, Dubai offers a sensory journey at every turn.

We will be staying at the 5-star Marriott Resort Palm Jumeirah, located on the iconic Palm Jumeirah Island.

With a beachfront swimming pool, full-service spa and 10 distinctive dining venues, this luxurious oasis offers the perfect balance of world-class comfort, modern elegance, and stunning Arabian Gulf views.

We hope you enjoy your time in Dubai, experiencing the diverse culture, history, warm weather, food and friendly Arabian hospitality.

NZ LAW SPONSORS



NZ CA SPONSORS



Thursday 12 June

Please refer to your individual flight itinerary if you have booked domestic flights or are travelling earlier than the group.

5:30pm

If you are on the group flight, please arrive at Auckland International Airport three hours prior and check in.

8:30pm

Emirates Airlines flight EK449 departs Auckland (flight time approx 17hr 5min).



Friday 13 June

5:35am

Emirates Airlines flight EK449 arrives in Dubai.

Please proceed to customs and collect your bags, then make your way into the arrivals area for our transfer. Joelle from Fortis and Heather will be waiting for you, so please look for them.

We will transfer to Marriott Resort Palm Jumeirah and be able to check in on arrival.

Marriott Resort Palm Jumeirah

444W+J75 Palm West Beach Palm, Jumeirah Road, The Palm Jumeirah, Dubai, U.A.E

Phone: +971 4 666 1111

7:00am
–11:00am

You will be able to enjoy breakfast in the hotel's Levantera restaurant, followed by time at leisure to settle in and explore the property.

3:00pm
– 6:00pm

This afternoon, enjoy welcome drinks and canapes with the group at our welcome function at Above Eleven, located within the hotel.

This evening is at leisure.



Saturday 14 June

**From
7:00am**

Enjoy breakfast at leisure.

Delegates

9:00am

Welcome, conference opening and housekeeping.

Innovative Approaches to Food Security and Sustainability: Insights from Dr. Majid Sultan Al Qassimi

Dr. Majid Sultan Al Qassimi, a veterinarian and policy maker, has significantly contributed to food security, sustainability, and biodiversity in the UAE and the Arab world. He has developed the UAE's Food Diversification strategy and served on multiple boards related to food safety, animal welfare, and agriculture. Currently, as a founding partner at SOMA MATER, he continues to develop food security and sustainability strategies for both the private sector and governments.

Dr. Majid Sultan Al Qassimi

10:00am

Morning tea

10:30am

Strategic Investment and Sustainable Impact: Alpha Kennedy's Journey from Military Leadership to Regional Development

Alpha Kennedy is an experienced executive and investment leader with over a decade of experience in high-risk environments. As CEO of Rabdan Holding, Alpha drives regional development in the Middle East and Africa through strategic investment. Alpha also advises New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and sits on the board of Prime Consulting International. With an MBA from the University of Otago, Alpha is fluent in Te Reo Māori and conversant in Dari.

Alpha Kennedy, Ngāti Ruanui, Te Āti Awa and Ngāti Kahungunu

11:30am

Takeovers and Mergers of Firms: Pitfalls and Successes

Shehan and Michael will frankly discuss their own experiences with merging firms, the methodologies used, the challenges, what worked best and what pitfalls to avoid. Shehan and Michael will be interviewed by Sam Walker and will take questions from the floor.

Shehan de Silva, Corcoran French and Michael Hoffman-Body, Gillespie Young Watson

Saturday 14 June

12:15pm

Conclude conference sessions. Working lunch for delegates.

2:20pm

Please meet in the hotel lobby.

2:30pm

Depart the hotel for our "At The Top" experience.

This afternoon we will visit Dubai's most iconic attraction, the world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa.

We will take the elevator from the entrance level inside the Dubai Mall to levels 124 & 125, more than 450 metres above ground. The elevators are among the fastest in the world, travelling at 10 metres per second, reaching the observation levels in less than a minute.

We will have at least an hour to enjoy the expansive views from the indoor and outdoor observation areas, before making our way back down to the entrance level.

5:00pm

Following our visit to Burj Khalifa we will transfer back to The Palm and head straight to tonight's group dinner venue, the U.A.E's most awarded Pan-Asian restaurant, Asia Asia.

**6:00pm
– 8:00pm**

We will enjoy a delicious group dinner and sunset views at Asia Asia, followed by a transfer back to the hotel.



Sunday 15 June

**From
7:00am**

Enjoy breakfast at leisure.

8:50am

Please meet in the hotel lobby.

9:00am

Depart the hotel for Old Dubai, where you'll be able to immerse yourself in Dubai's vibrant souks and discover the hustle and bustle along Dubai's Creek, which remains the lifeblood of Dubai.

We'll visit the Gold Souk and be dazzled by endless shop windows filled with gold, diamonds and gemstones, before taking in the heady fragrances of the aromatic Spice Souk, and enjoying an Abra ride (traditional water taxi) across Dubai Creek.

11:45am

Arrive back at the hotel.

Delegates

12:00pm

Working lunch for delegates.

1:00pm

Succession and Demographics in Legal Partnerships

Michael will cover succession issues from the perspective of the value exchanged with incoming and outgoing business owners. Firms take vastly different approaches to their partnership models, and we will canvas some of the advantages and disadvantages with some of these. Michael will also look at the current demographics within the legal industry when compared to the projected demographics within Aotearoa and how this might impact the sort of firm we need in the future and how that might impact our own succession goals. This will be an interactive session so come ready to contribute.

Michael Bendall, Corcoran French

Sunday 15 June

2:00pm

Tax Update

The exodus of many young Kiwis to Australia is creating headaches back home for mum and dad trusts and their advisors. We will explore a recent case study on the potential Australian tax issues associated with beneficiaries of NZ trust's moving to Australia. We will also discuss recent PI claims and how they could have been avoided.

Phil Bell, nsaTax

2:45pm

NZ LAW General Meeting (30 mins)

3:15pm

Afternoon tea and conference concludes.

Evening at leisure

You may wish to try one of the huge variety of restaurants at the hotel or visit the nearby Souk Madinat Jumeirah which is a short taxi ride from the hotel and has a range of restaurants and souvenir shops.



Monday 16 June

**From
7:00am**

Enjoy breakfast at leisure.

8:00am

If you booked the optional day trip to Abu Dhabi, please meet in the hotel lobby. Please wear appropriate attire to visit Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

The drive to Abu Dhabi is approximately 1 hour.

Abu Dhabi is the capital of the UAE and consists of 80 per cent of the total land area of the UAE.

On arrival we'll visit Skheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. This architectural work of art is one the world's largest mosques, with a capacity for an astonishing 41,000 worshippers.

We'll also visit the majestic Presidential Palace, Qasr al Watan, providing an insightful view of the region's rich heritage and bright future.

1:15pm

Enjoy a buffet lunch at Le Vendome in the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental.

2:15pm

Depart Abu Dhabi to return to the hotel.

Evening at leisure.



Tuesday 17 June

7:00am
– 11:00am

Enjoy breakfast at leisure.

This morning, please enjoy the optional tour you have booked. Please wear light, comfortable clothing and suitable walking shoes.

5:30am
– 10:00am

Dune Buggies

Travel into the Arabian Desert and discover the unique thrill of an off-road dune buggy adventure. Set in the Lisaili Camp, approximately 1 hour drive from the hotel, our adventure spans across a set path of bumps, turns, pivots and dunes that make for the perfect circuit to experience the desert dunes.

Water and snacks will be provided on the coach.

10:00am
– 2:45pm

Museum of the Future & Dubai Frame

The Museum of the Future is the first of its kind, built to transform the very perception of the future as we know it. The unique structure has become home to several immersive future environments that aim to position visitors in an empowering version of the future. The museum building is one of the most complex and ambitious structures ever executed.

The Dubai Frame is the city's latest landmark that consists of two transparent towers, 150-metres tall, connected by a 93-metre-long bridge. The unique architecture of the building allows you to enjoy 360 degree views of both old and new Dubai.



Tuesday 17 June

**10:30am
– 3:30pm**

Inside Burj Al Arab

Discover the original home of luxury with a 90-minute tour, accompanied by a dedicated butler. Enter the gilded doors of the Royal Suite to relive history through a one-of-a-kind immersive experience. With countless opportunities to capture your very own iconic moments, Inside Burj Al Arab provides the ultimate interior and exterior backdrops for you to take home as memories, forever.

4:15pm

Meet in the hotel lobby for our transfer into the Dubai desert for tonight's farewell function.

Please wear light, smart casual clothing and comfortable shoes, suitable for walking on sand. Please note that we will be outside for the duration of the evening.

11:00pm

Approximate arrival back at the hotel.



Wednesday 18 June

6:45am

If you are returning to Auckland on the group flight today, please check out and settle any incidental charges. A boxed breakfast will be available for you to take with you.

Meet in the hotel lobby with your luggage ahead of our transfer to Dubai Airport at 7:00am.

10:05am

Emirates Airlines flight EK448 departs Dubai, arriving in Auckland at 9:50am on Thursday 19 June.

**7:00am
– 11:00am**

Enjoy breakfast at leisure.

12:00pm

If you are departing Dubai independently today, please check out and settle any incidental charges.

Day and evening at leisure for those remaining in Dubai.



Thursday 19 June

From
7:00am

Enjoy breakfast at leisure.

If you chose a second optional activity for today, please enjoy.

10:00am
– 2:45pm

Museum of the Future & Dubai Frame

10:30am
– 3:30pm

Inside Burj Al Arab

Evening at leisure.



Friday 20 June

6:45am

If you are returning to Auckland on the group flight today, please check out and settle any incidental charges. A boxed breakfast will be available for you to take with you.

Meet in the hotel lobby with your luggage ahead of our transfer to Dubai Airport at 7:00am.

10:05am

Emirates Airlines flight EK448 departs Dubai, arriving in Auckland at 9:50am on Saturday 21 June.

12:00pm

If you are departing Dubai independently today, please check out and settle any incidental charges.



Additional Information

If you have made travel arrangements through Fortis you will have received a personalised travel itinerary at the time of your booking. It provides detailed information regarding your flights and any extension travel, as well as your airline reference number.

If your travel details differ from the main group arrangements, or if you have domestic connections, please read and check your itinerary carefully.

As experienced travellers, we are sure you are aware of the guidelines around airline security, but as a friendly reminder, please check that you have no restricted liquids or gels, or any other prohibited items in your hand luggage, and that the size and weight of your luggage is in accordance with your permitted allowance.

ENTRY INTO THE U.A.E

For New Zealand citizens, no pre-arranged visa is required for short stays in Dubai (UAE). You will receive a visa on arrival free of charge at the airport valid for up to 30 days.

Please ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry, you have proof of your onward or return travel with you, and a copy of the hotel's details:

Marriott Resort Palm Jumeirah

444W+J75 Palm West Beach Palm,
Jumeirah Road, The Palm Jumeirah,
Dubai, U.A.E

Phone: +971 4 666 1111

ENTRY INTO NEW ZEALAND

Please complete your New Zealand Traveller Declaration ahead of your arrival back into New Zealand via www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz or the app. This can be done within 24 hours of your arrival.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is your own responsibility and is strongly recommended.

TIME ZONE

Dubai will be 8 hours behind New Zealand when we travel.

ELECTRICITY

In Dubai the plug type is primarily G (same as the UK). Make sure you bring a good quality travel adaptor with you, though USB charging is also common.

CURRENCY

The local currency is UAE Dirham (AED). The approximate rate is: 1 NZD \approx 2.15–2.20 AED but can fluctuate.

Dubai is a card-friendly city and very cashless. Credit/debit cards (Visa, Mastercard) are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, shops, and even taxis. Apple Pay and Google Pay work too. A small amount of cash is useful for the souks (traditional markets), or if you're visiting more local spots.

Additional Information

WEATHER & WHAT TO PACK

The dress code for the conference is casual and for functions is smart casual.

The humidity in June can be high. Rain is very unlikely. Pack light, breathable clothes as well as a hat, sunblock, sunglasses and comfortable shoes for walking. A warmer layer may be handy for air-conditioning indoors.

Swimwear is fine at pools and beaches, but modest dress is appreciated in public spaces. Shoulders and knees must be covered when visiting mosques or cultural sites.

Additional activity-specific dress information

- Visit to Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque: No transparent (see-through) clothing, no shorts or skirts, no sleeveless shirts, no clothing with profanity or cartoons, no tight clothing.
- Dune Buggies optional: Please wear closed-toe shoes.

GETTING AROUND

Taxis are affordable and well-regulated. We recommend you use taxis to get around during your stay outside of group activities and if you are making your own way to/from the airport.

WHATSAPP GROUP

We will be setting up a WhatsApp group to communicate important updates with the group during the trip, so please ensure you download WhatsApp if you don't already have it.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Heather and the team from Fortis Events will be available leading up to and throughout the trip to assist with any queries you have:

Heather Menzies

Conference Manager
heather@nzlaw.co.nz
+64 21 432 843

Joelle Talbot

Fortis Events
Joelle@fortisevents.co.nz
+64 21 852 011

Fortis Events Team

team@fortisevents.co.nz
+64 979 5080

Attendees

NZ CA	Firm	Partners & Children
Tony Gambitsis	GCOL Ltd	
Gina Gambitsis	GCOL Ltd	
Jinine Carmichael	gfa Chartered Accountants	Myles Whitcher
Lance Fielder	gfa Chartered Accountants	Haley Fielder
Stuart McLauchlan	GS McLauchlan	
Karen Thomson	GS McLauchlan	
Mark McMullan	Martin Wakefield	Jo McMullan
Philip Bell	nsaTax	Bronwyn Bell
Carl Cachopa	RSM NZ	Deborah Cachopa, Jordan (8), Ashton (6), Stephen & Karyn Booth
Becks Schofield	Southey Sayer	Emily Sayer (13) Rueben Sayer (12), Liz Mills, Murray & Juliet Schofield
Karen Draper	Wallace Diack	Sofala Campbell Fuller, Lewis (6), Max (1)
Jason Gluer	Wallace Diack	
Paul Young	Whitelaw Weber	Siran Young
Annika Dickey	Whitelaw Weber	Tony Dickey
Natalie Milne	YRW	Cooper Swindlehurst (16)

Attendees

NZ LAW	Firm	Partners & Children
Carolyn Cooper	Apogee Legal	Glen Cooper, Addison (14), Quinn (11)
Amanda Crehan	Atkinson Crehan	Michael Crehan
Michael Bendall	Corcoran French	Bianca Bendall, Thomas (7) Madeline (5)
Shehan de Silva	Corcoran French	Kate de Silva, Isiah (4), Madeline (10), Amelia (11), Kingston (12)
Murray Little	Cruickshank Pryde	
Hilary Copland	Cruickshank Pryde	Todd Copland
David O'Neill	David O'Neill Barrister	Melanie O'Neill
Kelly McCullough	DG Law	Annalise Barrett
Jane Fletcher	Downie Stewart	Timothy Holmes
Mandy Rasmussen	Edmonds Judd	Stephen Rasmussen
Michelle Williams	Gawith Burridge	
Michael Hofmann-Body	Gilliespie Young Watson	
Sam Walker	Gilliespie Young Watson	Lorraine Hercus, Hugo (5) Harriet (2), Alastair Hercus
Greg Kelly	Greg Kelly Law	
Rebecca Wong	Innes Dean Lawyers	Aidan Wong
Peter Lindstrom	Innes Dean Lawyers	Jill Lindstrom
Chantal Morkel	Malley & Co	Ian Morkel
Chris Steenstra	Norris Ward McKinnon	Keryn Steenstra
Glenda Bilsborrow	Norris Ward McKinnon	John Bilsborrow, Elise (9), Aidan (11), Caleb (13)
Dan Moore	Norris Ward McKinnon	Sue Moore, Elise Moore

Attendees



NZ LAW	Firm	Partners & Children
Brenda Flay	Purnell Lawyers	Stuart McDonald
David Forman	RSM Law	Katie Forman
Brendan Wall	Sandford Wall	Katherine Wall
Michael Badham	Thomson Wilson	Debra Welsh
Vaughan Syers	Thomson Wilson	Vanessa Syers
Janice Forsyth	Welsh McCarthy Parker	CJ Mahony, Svetlana (10), Sebastian (8)
Michael Win	Wilkinson Rodgers	Tania Phillips
Geoff Mirkin	Wilkinson Rodgers	Wendy Mirkin
Werner van Harselaar	Wilkinson Rodgers	Kate van Harselaar

Sponsors, CA LAW	Firm	Partners & Children
Lesley Runciman	AON	Linc Runciman
Heather Menzies	CA LAW	Ross Menzies
Darrin Rogers	CA LAW	
Joelle Talbot	Fortis Events	

Monday Optionals

MONDAY 16 JUNE, 8AM - ABU DHABI

Delegate	PAX
Michael Badham & Debra Welsh	2
Philip & Bronwyn Bell	2
Glenda & John Bilsborrow, Caleb, Aidan & Elise	5
Stephen & Karyn Booth	2
Carl & Deb Cachopa, Jordan & Ashton	4
Jinine Carmichael & Myles Whitcher	2
Carolyn & Glen Cooper, Addison, Quinn	4
Amanda & Mike Crehan	2
Annika & Tony Dickey	2
Lance & Haley Fielder	2
Brenda Flay & Stuart McDonald	2
David & Katie Forman	2
Janice Forsyth & Christian Mahony, Svetlana, Sebastian	4
Gina & Tony Gambitsis	2
Michael Hofmann-Body	1
Greg Kelly	1
Murray Little	1
Kelly McCullough & Annalise Barrett	2
Mark McMullan & Josephine McMullan	2
Heather & Ross Menzies	2
Natalie Milne & Cooper Swindlehurst	2

Monday Optionals

MONDAY 16 JUNE, 8AM - ABU DHABI

Delegate	PAX
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Geoff & Wendy Mirkin	2
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Dan & Sue Moore, Elise	3
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Chantal & Ian Morkel	2
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David & Melanie O'Neill	2
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Mandy & Stephen Rasmussen	2
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Darrin Rogers	1
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Becks Schofield, Emily, Reuben & Liz Mills	4
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Murray & Juliet Schofield	2
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Chris & Keryn Steenstra	2
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Vaughan & Vanessa Syers	2
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Joelle Talbot	1
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Karen Thomson & Stuart McLauchlan	2
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Werner & Kate van Harselaar	2
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Samuel Walker & Lorraine Hercus, Hugo, Harriet & Alastair	5
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Brendan & Katherine Wall	2
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Michael Win & Tania Phillips	2
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Rebecca & Aidan Wong	2
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Paul & Siran Young	2
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Tuesday Optionals

TUESDAY 17 JUNE, 5.30AM - DUNE BUGGIES

Delegate	PAX
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Michael Bendall	1
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Carl & Deb Cachopa	2
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Jinine Carmichael & Myles Whitcher	2
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Hilary & Todd Copland	2
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Shehan de Silva	1
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Annika & Tony Dickey	2
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Lance & Haley Fielder	2
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Brenda Flay & Stuart McDonald	2
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Gina & Tony Gambitsis	2
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Jason Gluer	1
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Michael Hofmann-Body	1
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Kelly McCullough & Annalise Barrett	2
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Mark McMullan & Josephine McMullan	2
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Ross Menzies	1
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Dan & Elise Moore	2
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Mandy & Stephen Rasmussen	2
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Darrin Rogers	1
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Lesley & Linc Runciman	2
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Chris & Keryn Steenstra	2
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Werner & Kate van Harselaar	2
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Brendan & Katherine Wall	2
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Rebecca & Aidan Wong	2
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Tuesday Optionals

TUESDAY 17 JUNE, 10AM - MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE & DUBAI FRAME

Delegate	PAX
Glenda & John Bilsborrow, Caleb, Aidan & Elise	5
Carolyn & Glen Cooper, Addison, Quinn	4
Amanda & Mike Crehan	2
Jane Fletcher & Timothy Holmes	2
Janice Forsyth & Christian Mahony, Svetlana, Sebastian	4
Murray Little	1
Geoff & Wendy Mirkin	2
Becks Schofield, Emily, Reuben & Liz Mills	4
Murray & Juliet Schofield	2
Paul & Siran Young	2
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TUESDAY 17 JUNE, 10.30AM - BURJ AL ARAB

Delegate	PAX
Michael Badham & Debra Welsh	2
Philip & Bronwyn Bell	2
Greg Kelly	1
Peter & Jill Lindstrom	2
Chantal & Ian Morkel	2
David & Melanie O'Neill	2
	11

Thursday Optionals

THURSDAY 19 JUNE, 10AM - MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE & DUBAI FRAME

Delegate	PAX
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Michael & Bianca Bendall, Thomas, Madeline	4
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Shehan & Kate de Silva, Isiah, Madeline, Amelia, Kingston	6
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Kelly McCullough & Annalise Barrett	2
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Dan & Sue Moore, Elise	3
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Chantal & Ian Morkel	2
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David & Melanie O'Neill	2
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Mandy & Stephen Rasmussen	2
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Werner & Kate van Harselaar	2
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THURSDAY 19 JUNE, 10.30AM - BURJ AL ARAB

Delegate	PAX
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Brenda Flay & Stuart McDonald	2
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Chris & Keryn Steenstra	2
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