



**APT** is rather proud of its Gruner Bar & Dining venue featuring state-of-the-art hydraulics that lift the venue to the upper sundeck for 360-degree vistas aboard *APT Solara* and *APT Ostara*.

However, when Chief Executive Officer David Cox was explaining the concept in detail during a recent interview with *Cruise Weekly*, he noted the lift only takes a short two minutes to complete the raise.

"It's very quick and we trialled it during a recent shakedown cruise, so now we effectively have a roller coaster on board as well," Cox quipped.

"It's certainly an attraction when you pull up next to the other ships, and everybody's looking at that wine bar shift up to the sundeck - so we're claiming that as a world exclusive," he enthused.

## Year-round Opera

**MSC** Cruises will deploy a ship in the southern Caribbean year-round for the first time.

Based in the region for the 2026/27 northern winter will be *MSC Opera*, remaining there for the 2027 summer alongside by *MSC Seaview*.

*Opera* will offer alternating seven-night itineraries visiting ports including the Dominican Republic, Martinique, Antigua, Guadeloupe and more.

## APT's sweet fundraiser



**APT** Travel Group held a staff bake-off recently, which raised more than \$6,000 for cancer research as part of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

The company exceeded its target by more than double, after initially aiming for \$3,000 raised for the Cancer Council.

The day saw 20 APT staff showcase their culinary talents in a friendly internal competition, complete with prizes for the top three bakers.

A complimentary coffee cart fuelled the festivities, with Chief Operating Officer Lorna Heyward saying APT was thrilled with the incredible generosity shown by its team.

The final amount of \$6,500 included the dollar-for-dollar matching commitment from APT's foundation OneTomorrow.

"What started as a fun way to bring back a beloved tradition has resulted in a significant contribution to cancer research

families," Heyward said.

"This success story shows what's possible when businesses engage their teams in charitable giving and have the infrastructure to amplify that impact.

"OneTomorrow's dollar-for-dollar matching ensures every donation from our team goes twice as far in supporting vital causes like cancer research." **MS**

**Pictured** are APT team members Sam Briggs and Madi McClure.

## Star passes trials

**ROYAL** Caribbean's second Icon-class ship *Star of the Seas* has completed her sea trials ahead of her debut in Aug.

The ship spent eight days at sea, during which all onboard systems were tested and certified for normal operation.

*Star* has now returned to the Meyer Turku shipyard in Finland for her final fit-out and fine tuning.



## Cruise and aviation partner in Broome

**IT WAS** a big week for cruise in Broome, as the ACA May Board Meeting coincided with several exciting developments.

A standout moment was the launch of Broome International Airport's new dedicated cruise lounge - a first for Australia.

This beautifully curated space offers disembarking expedition guests a true taste of the Kimberley, featuring local produce, regional wines, and spirits with native botanicals. *Seabourn Pursuit* was also in port, and we were treated to an exclusive tour of the ship, including a behind-the-scenes visit to the galley, hosted by the head chef with 30 years of experience at sea.

The culinary program highlights locally sourced ingredients - from scampi caviar from Darwin to premium Australian wines - with all meat, bread, and pastries prepared in-house.

The galley also features innovative energy-saving systems, such as automated fans that respond to temperature.

It was fantastic to also present on the cruise opportunity at a Cruise Ready Workshop for 40 local operators, and meet with several federal agencies to further progress Broome's first point of entry status.

With cruise injecting over \$70 million annually into Broome's economy, this strengthened cruise-airport connection marks an exciting evolution in the region's visitor experience.