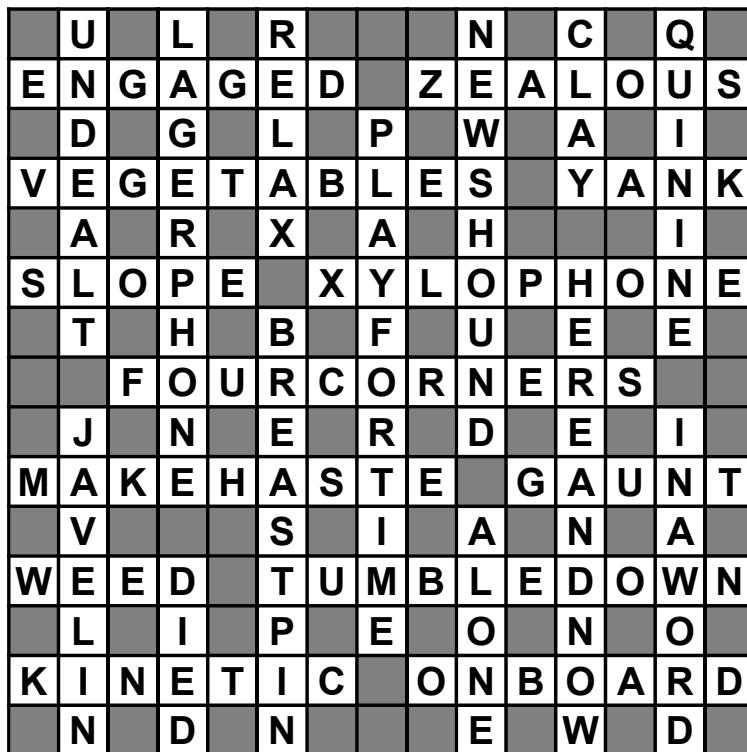


AFR Cryptic AJ (New Year Special 2026) Solution



Answer	Clue	Explanation
ALONE	A learner driver dealt with one without assistance (5)	A + L + ONE
BREASTPIN	Jewellery and rings, primarily paste, must be tossed in bin (9)	[(R)ings + anagram of PASTE] inside BIN
CLAY	Earthy material left in region of island (4)	L inside CAY
DIED	Failed papers recalled by top journalist (4)	ID reversed + ED
ENGAGED	Crack and ecstasy, carried by target, may be taken (7)	(GAG + E) inside END
FOUR CORNERS	ABC program for sure upset about podiatrist's concern (4,7)	Anagram of FOR SURE outside CORN
GAUNT	Face of grieving relative is abnormally thin (5)	(G)rieving + AUNT
HERE AND NOW	The man ordered one drawn immediately (4,3,3)	HE + anagram ONE DRAWN
IN A WORD	One on ward suffering disorder briefly (2,1,4)	I + anagram of ON WARD
JAVELIN	Judge disrupted an evil event for tossers (7)	J + anagram of AN EVIL
KINETIC	Family reversed call due to motion (7)	KIN + (CITE reversed)
LAGERPHONE	Record broken by mature shearer finally - perfect top ringer (10)	LP outside [AGE + sheare(R)] + HONE
MAKE HASTE	Friend, carrying keg, nearly has to hurry (4,5)	MATE outside [KE(g) + HAS]
NEWSHOUND	Fresh sound plugged by hot reporter (9)	(NEW + SOUND) outside H
ON BOARD	Flying baron involved in overdose (2,5)	Anagram of BARON inside OD

