

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 8/8/2026) Solution

¹ S	E	² M	E	³ S	T	⁴ E	R		⁵ I	⁶ M	P	⁷ A	R	⁸ T
I		U		W		T		⁹ I		I		G		H
¹⁰ G	O	L	D	E	N	H	A	N	D	S	H	A	K	E
N		L		E		A		T		S		R		A
¹¹ E	Y	E	O	P	E	N	E	R		¹² R	O	A	M	S
T		T				O		I		I		G		H
			¹³ E	¹⁴ V	I	L		¹⁵ M	A	G	N	A	T	E
¹⁶ O		¹⁷ H		E						H		R		S
¹⁸ F	R	O	W	N	E	¹⁹ R		²⁰ M	Y	T	H			
F		T		E		E		O				²¹ Q		²² P
²³ E	T	H	E	R		²⁴ M	I	N	U	²⁵ S	C	U	L	E
N		O		A		A		I		P		O		D
²⁶ C	O	U	N	T	E	R	A	T	T	A	C	K	E	D
E		S		E		K		O		W		K		L
²⁷ S	P	E	E	D	O		²⁸ T	R	U	N	C	A	T	E

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 SEMESTER	"Academic period" seems to be confused with "short term" (8)	Anagram of SEEMS + TER(m)
5 IMPART	Pass on one piano on show in shop (6)	I + (P inside MART)
10 GOLDEN HANDSHAKE	Has had dog kennel rebuilt with unemployment benefit? (6,9)	Anagram of HAS HAD DOG KENNEL
11 EYE-OPENER	I heard peer on broadcast - what a revealing event! (3-6)	Sounds like I + anagram of PEER ON
12 ROAMS	Sheep, taking in nothing, wanders about aimlessly (5)	RAMS outside O
13 EVIL	In operation, sitting around could be harmful (4)	LIVE reversed
15 MAGNATE	Powerbroker may cut off corrupt agent (7)	MA(y) + anagram of AGENT
18 FROWNER	French proprietor, one who looks displeased (7)	FR + OWNER
20 MYTH	Members of academy that fabricated story (4)	acadeMY THat
23 ETHER	One of two releasing one old number (5)	EITHER minus I
24 MINUSCULE	Lower-case subtraction indicator used by cryptic clue (9)	MINUS + anagram of CLUE
26 COUNTER-ATTACKED	Marker changed direction after a time and fought back (7-8)	COUNTER + [TACKED after (A + T)]
27 SPEEDO	Costume maker is not seen in edited episodes (6)	Anagram of EPISODES minus IS
28 TRUNCATE	Dock directed sailing boat in middle of westerly (8)	(RUN + CAT) inside wes(TE)rly

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 SIGNET	10 American soldiers picked up SEAL (6)	(TEN + GIS) reversed
2 MULLET	Do tell about finishing Greek letter (6)	TELL reversed after MU
3 SWEEP	Waste matter absorbed by special brush (5)	WEE inside SP
4 ETHANOL	One in hotel ordered alcohol (7)	AN inside anagram of HOTEL
6 MISS RIGHT	The perfect female engineer shortened height following oversight (4,5)	(RIG + HT) after MISS
7 AGAR-AGAR	A newspaper backed and reproduced setter (4-4)	[A +(RAG reversed)] twice
8 THE ASHES	He has played badly in most of test series (3,5)	(HE + anagram of HAS) inside (TES)t
9 IN TRIM	Fit caretaker lacking energy (2,4)	INTERIM minus E
14 VENERATED	Respected veteran worked with journalist (9)	Anagram of VETERAN + ED
16 OFFENCES	Violations of bent resellers (8)	OF + FENCES
17 HOTHOUSE	Water surrounding grand development environment (8)	HOSE outside THOU
19 REMARK	Comment on score in an exam (6)	RE + MARK
20 MONITOR	Observe him on it, or in it? (7)	hiM ON IT OR
21 QUOKKA	Heads to Queensland, uncertain of keeping koala and wallaby (6)	(Q)ueensland (U)ncertain (O)f (K)eeping (K)oala (A)nd
22 PEDDLE	Sell cycle by word of mouth (6)	Sounds like PEDAL
25 SPAWN	Small shrimp, clear of river, deposit eggs (5)	S + (PRAWN minus R)