

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 11/4/2026) Solution

	¹ S	² C	R	³ A	W	⁴ L	E	⁵ D		⁶ B	L	⁷ O	O	⁸ D
⁹ L		H		M		A		O		R		P		E
¹⁰ A	N	I	M	A	L	M	A	G	N	E	T	I	S	M
	I	L		T		I		M		A		U		I
¹¹ D	U	D	G	E	O	N		¹² A	T	T	I	M	E	S
	U		L		U		¹³ A	R	T		H			E
¹⁴ P	L	I	E	R	S			¹⁵ I	N	S	I	¹⁶ D	E	
			K				¹⁷ P		C				I	
	¹⁸ S	E	A	¹⁹ M	E	R			²⁰ D	²¹ E	R	M	I	²² S
²³ C				A		²⁴ E	N	²⁵ D		Y		E		P
²⁶ R	E	²⁷ W	A	R	D	S		²⁸ E	T	E	R	N	A	L
	A		I	I		S		B		L		S		I
²⁹ F	I	R	S	T	A	U	S	T	R	A	L	I	A	N
	T		E		A		R		O		S		O	E
³⁰ Y	O	D	E	L			³¹ E	A	R	T	H	I	N	G

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 SCRAWLED	Hastily written books ultimately moved along slowly (8)	book(S) + CRAWLED
6 BLOOD	Family flourished without me (5)	BLOOMED minus ME
10 ANIMAL MAGNETISM	An enigmatic mate smiling about mother with personal charm (6,9)	AN + anagram of MATE SMILING outside MA
11 DUDGEON	Resentment shown by fellow carrying \$10at work (7)	DUDE outside G + ON
12 AT TIMES	Rough estimate not completed on occasion (2,5)	Anagram of (ESTIMAT)e
13 ART	Public hanging...an endless party? (3)	p)ART(y)
14 PLIERS	Pinchers, large, seen in fishing spots (6)	L inside PIERS
15 INSIDE	Sporting team is under cover (6)	IN + SIDE
18 SEAMER	Sailors docked with right delivery (6)	SEAME(n) + R
20 DERMIS	Skin divers at sea switching "volume" to "mass" (6)	Anagram of DIVERS with M for V
24 END	A number of aldermen defended resolution (3)	aldermEN Defended
26 REWARDS	Artist returned small prizes (7)	DRAWER reversed + S
28 ETERNAL	Unchanging consumer not taking a computer system back (7)	EATER minus A + (LAN reversed)
29 FIRST AUSTRALIAN	Original inhabitant, a naturalist, resettled behind trees (5,10)	Anagram of A NATURALIST after FIRS
30 YODEL	Sing melody arranged without musicians initially (5)	Anagram of MELODY minus (M)usicians
31 EARTHING	Auditor linked to affair is going to ground (8)	EAR + THING

Down	Clue	Explanation
2 CHILDLIKE	Learner driver, grabbed by kid raised in Chile, is innocent (9)	(L inside KID) reverse inside CHILE
3 AMATEUR	A friend set up rugby union player who doesn't get paid (7)	A + MATE + (RU reversed)
4 LAMINA	Savage overturned thin plate (6)	ANIMAL reversed
5 DOGMATIC	Opinionated male chasing scoundrel, a jerk (8)	(M after DOG) + A + TIC
6 BREATHS	Inspiring efforts are lacking a bit in swimming pool (7)	(ARE minus A) inside BATHS
7 OPIUM	Narcotics division originally not bound to impound distributed drug (5)	Anagram of IMPOUND minus (N)arcotics (D)ivision
8 DEMISE	Part in modem is examined for failure (6)	moDEM IS Examined
9 LAID UP	Support university breaking record - that's sick (4,2)	(AID + U) inside LP
16 DIMENSION	Measure soldiers replacing six in division (9)	DIVISION with VI replaced by MEN
17 PRESSURE	Research bearing subjected externally to pure heat (8)	(RES + S) inside PURE
19 MARITAL	Academic linked to new trial of a husband (7)	MA + anagram of TRIAL
21 EYELASH	Hair pieces turned up in church sale yesterday (7)	churcH SALE YEsterday reversed
22 SPLINE	Thin strip left in back of book (6)	L inside SPINE
23 CRAFTY	Announcement about modified fat is devious (6)	CRY outside anagram FAT
25 DEBTOR	Corrupt foundation set up borrower (6)	(ROT + BED) reversed
27 WIRED	We brought around Irish leader from Dublin in an excited state (5)	WE outside IR + (D)ublin