

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 26/9/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 SEETHING	Observe matter in a highly agitated state (8)	SEE +THING
5 HOBART	Watering hole located in stormy centre of Australia (6)	BAR inside HOT
9 ADDER	Summer competition table without a definite leader (5)	(1)ADDER
10 HAPPENING	Layer shielding software in grand event (9)	HEN outside APP + IN + G
12 CHANDELIER	Cleaner hid broken light fitting (10)	Anagram of CLEANER HID
13 BEST	Defeat brutal person with no heart (4)	BE(a)ST
15 SCOTTISH	Antiquated tax aggravated this group of people in the UK (8)	SCOT + anagram of THIS
16 BOSTON	American city street involved in blessing (6)	ST inside BOON
18 FURORE	Stir caused by fur (or ermine) in short supply (6)	FUR (OR Ermine)
19 HISTORIC	Famous tenor in choir is out of tune (8)	T inside anagram of CHOIR IS
22 ALTO	High elements of dial tone (4)	diAL TOne
23 COSTA RICAN	Assortment of narcotics divided up by a person from Central America (5,5)	Anagram of NARCOTICS outside A
25 TRAVELLER	Teller, accepting enthusiastic praise, cut off mobile salesperson (9)	TELLER outside (RAV)e
26 GENOA	One may be pulled back in middle of navigation? (5)	ONE reversed inside navi(GA)tion
27 RATTLE	Irritating sound Telstra corrected with seconds to go (6)	Anagram of TELSTRA minus S
28 BASTILLE	Live outside a peaceful prison in France (8)	BE outside (A + STILL)

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 STANCES	Cessna manoeuvred around airport's terminal positions (7)	Anagram of CESSNA outside airpor(T)
2 ENDEAVOUR STRAIT	Northern channel broadcast an overused feature (9,6)	Anagram of AN OVERUSED + TRAIT
3 HEREDITARY	Family time recorded in present journal (10)	T inside (HERE + DIARY)
4 NIHILIST	Revolutionary turned in hard one on schedule (8)	IN reversed + H + I + LIST
6 OXER	Dog without lead jumped fence (4)	(b)OXER
7 ALIMENTARY CANAL	Internal passage a claimant nearly ruptured (10,5)	Anagram of A CLAIMANT NEARLY
8 TIGHTEN	Give an extra turn to strong character in speech (7)	Sounds like TITAN
11 PEED	Visited the ladies, say, with strong backing (4)	DEEP reversed
14 FORTHRIGHT	Direct towards Human Resources in firm (10)	FOR + (HR inside TIGHT)
17 WISTERIA	Water is sprayed around one climbing plant (8)	Anagram of WATER IS outside I
18 FLATTER	Fine coffee maker's back to dispense sugar (7)	F + LATTE + make(R)
20 CONCAVE	Crumpled can found buried in cove curved inwards (7)	Anagram of CAN inside COVE
21 FOIL	Thin sheet-metal baffle (4)	Double Definition
24 FELL	Level went down (4)	Double Definition