

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 9/5/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 APPLICANTS	Captains at sea holding place for candidates (10)	Anagram of CAPTAINS outside PL
6 HELP	Come to the aid of young dog without lead (4)	(w)HELP
9 SLOOP	Sailing vessel joins forces heading west (5)	POOLS reversed
10 DAREDEVIL	US lawyer embarrassed immoral hothead (9)	DA + RED + EVIL
12 FINANCIERS	Enthusiasts taking in investors (10)	FANCIERS outside IN
13 LOT	Share half of red wine (3)	mer(LOT)
15 ON-SITE	One ringing model located at a particular place (2-4)	ONE outside SIT
16 COME UPON	Find the writer in possession of voucher (4,4)	ME inside COUPON
18 SETSCREW	Stitch around edges of tailored crest with groovy metal fastener (8)	SEW outside anagram of CREST
20 SPICES	Special treats popular on a hot day - they're full of flavour (6)	SP + ICES
23 OWN	Keep formal dresses with no sleeves? (3)	g)OWN(s
24 BASKET CASE	Nervous wreck's set-back treated as routine ultimately (6,4)	Anagram of SETBACK + AS + routin(E)
26 PRIME RATE	Banking figure is a little explosive at start of engagement (5,4)	PRIMER + AT + (E)ngagement
27 FRILL	Gathering crowd assembled on banks of river (5)	FILL outside R
28 RAGE	Right time of life to party (4)	R + AGE
29 PESTILENCE	Upright member in British capital is a morally harmful influence (10)	STILE inside PENCE

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 APSE	Area of church collapsed partly (4)	collAPSEd
2 PROFITS	Expert attacks money made in business (7)	PRO + FITS
3 IMPRACTICABLE	Useless right in effect, one on line (13)	R inside IMPACT + I + CABLE
4 ADDICT	Part of a play, staged outside, did upset aficionado (6)	ACT outside anagram of DID
5 TURNED ON	Rugby union back, restricted by ruptured tendon, is tripped (6,2)	(RU reversed) inside anagram of TENDON
7 ENVELOP	New edition of novel slipped inside record cover (7)	Anagram of NOVEL inside EP
8 POLITENESS	Poet's lines translated with refinement (10)	Anagram of POETS LINES
11 DISRESPECTFUL	Purists feel CD with a typical arrangement is fresh? (13)	Anagram of PURISTS FEEL CD
14 GOBSTOPPER	Retired salesperson plants marshy area with sucker (10)	(REP + POTS + BOG) reversed
17 MESSMATE	One who joins a friend to eat gum? (8)	Double definition of sorts
19 TINTING	Two cans with green's primary colouring (7)	TIN + TIN + (G)reen
21 CUSHION	Copper replaced his working shock absorber (7)	CU + anagram of HIS + ON
22 DESERT	Leave high and dry place of solitude (6)	Double Definition
25 FLEE	Leave head of logistics in charge (4)	(L)ogistics inside FEE