

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 6/9/2025) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 BOTTLEBRUSH	Botanical region brought back grass - an Australian native (11)	BOT + (BELT reversed) + RUSH
9 HERRING	Hotel messing up fish (7)	H + ERRING
10 SUBSIDE	Replacement's idea not backed by a moderate (7)	SUBS + (IDEA minus A)
11 EVENSONG	Regular family member connected with head of Greek church service (8)	EVEN + SON + (G)reek
12 JAMIES	Nightwear that is wedged in tight spots (6)	IE inside JAMS
14 SIDE	Team selection of professionals ideally (4)	professionalS IDEally
15 BEFRIENDED	Brief shuffled over and helped (10)	Anagram of BRIEF + ENDED
18 PARAPHRASE	Expected rash developed in ape, say, in a different way (10)	PAR + (anagram of RASH inside APE)
19 OPAL	New hospital not built with this stone (4)	Anagram of HOSPITAL minus THIS
22 ABSORB	Stomach muscles, struck with ball, pull in (6)	ABS + ORB
24 SHOOTING	Frightening cry can start to generate gunfire (8)	SHOO + TIN + (G)enerate
26 EPISODE	Incident is linked to verse at end of recording (7)	(IS + ODE) after EP
27 TWO PAIR	Reasonable hand was primarily featured in top broadcast (3,4)	(W)as inside (TOP + AIR)
28 DISENTANGLE	Resolve is needed in depression - a point of view (11)	(IS inside DENT) + ANGLE

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 BARTENDER	Local worker's ingenuity demonstrated in drinking spree (9)	ART inside BENDER
2 THIRST	Drought this time broken by end of September (6)	(THIS + T) outside septembe(R)
3 LOGANBERRY	Fruit began in poor condition inside truck (10)	Anagram of BEGAN inside LORRY
4 BUSY	Long ride back to city is tiring (4)	BUS + cit(Y)
5 UNBEATEN	Bun, cooked and consumed, is second to none (8)	Anagram of BUN + EATEN
6 HAITI	Country that's content with one backing IT? (5)	t(HA)t + I + (IT reversed)
7 CHEERS	All the best Roman drivers avoiding a riot (6)	CHARIOTEERS minus (A + RIOT)
8 TEASED	Dinner parties given by senior journalist wound up (6)	TEAS + ED
13 BRUSCHETTA	Clarified butter has set on outside of cold Italian dish (10)	Anagram of BUTTER HAS outside C
16 DUPLICATE	Facsimile finished in strange dialect (9)	UP inside anagram of DIALECT
17 SPURIOUS	Forged acknowledgement of debt received by London soccer club (8)	IOU inside SPURS
18 PLACED	Ranked leader of platoon backed transfer (6)	(P)latoon + (DECAL reversed)
20 LAGERS	Royal tipped over first of several drinks (6)	REGAL reversed + (S)everal
21 BOGONG	Marshy area providing shelter for nearly extinct Australian moth (6)	BOG outside (GON)e
23 SHIED	Tossed one in outhouse (5)	I inside SHED
25 TERN	Sea-bird's offspring spotted in winter nest? (4)	winTER Nest