

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 17/1/2026) Solution

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| ⁹ R | | N | | A | | A | | R | | E | | O | | M |
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| ¹¹ S | U | R | F | E | R | | ¹² D | E | P | A | R | T | E | D |
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| Across | Clue | Explanation |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 BIG TOP | Dance around one great entertainment centre (3,3) | BOP outside (I + GT) |
| 5 PARABLE | Lesson given by expert following average golf score (7) | ABLE after PAR |
| 10 AFTER SCHOOL CARE | Teacher of carols organised child-minding service (5,6,4) | Anagram of TEACHER OF CAROLS |
| 11 SURFER | Board rider is certain about fellow rider at the back (6) | SURE outside F + ride(R) |
| 12 DEPARTED | Property document containing deception, in retrospect, should be left (8) | DEED outside (TRAP reversed) |
| 14 NORM | Standard selection from Lennon or McCartney (4) | lennoN OR Mccartney |
| 15 FEATHERBED | Spoil meal containing 50% meat and herb (10) | FEED outside [me(AT) + HERB] |
| 18 PETITIONER | Claimant favoured one written in Italian and Irish (10) | PET + [ONE inside (IT + IR)] |
| 19 ARCH | Most important parade started late (4) | (m)ARCH |
| 22 CONTEMPT | Disregard kid, one not always at work before time (8) | CON + TEMP + T |
| 24 ARMADA | A river and a barrier held back fighting force (6) | A + R + (A + DAM) reversed |
| 26 SURFERS PARADISE | Irrational fears surprised a Gold Coast resort (7,8) | Anagram of FEARS SURPRISED A |
| 27 PIEBALD | Mongrel that is restrained by lead, unsettled lad (7) | IE inside PB + anagram of LAD |
| 28 EXTENT | Reach links contained in hypertext entry (6) | hypertEXT ENTry |

[illegible]