

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 12/9/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 BILLBOARD	Hoarding sick swine in vacated backyard? (9)	(ILL + BOAR) inside B(ackyard)D
6 HISS	Disapproving expression is identified in high school (4)	IS inside HS
10 ARGON	Gas line extracted from assorted pieces of angle iron (5)	Anagram of ANGLE IRON minus LINE
11 MISSHAPEN	Ugly young lady has not finished with writer (9)	MISS + HA(s) + PEN
12 SHILLING	Capital of Switzerland building up old capital (8)	(S)witzerland + HILLING
13 DECOCT	Two months to extract essence by boiling! (6)	DEC(ember) + OCT(ober)
15 DEPOTS	Quickly went around to retired storekeepers (6)	(SPED outside TO) reversed
16 OPPOSER	One who speaks out against problem after surgical procedure (7)	POSER after OP
18 TAN	Summer shade tree's first and not last (3)	(T)ree + AN(d)
19 OFFENCE	Crime concerning unlawful reseller (7)	OF + FENCE
21 THIRTY	A number in need of water not sustenance primarily (6)	THIRSTY minus (S)ustenance
24 LINERS	Ships - they still hold records (6)	Double Definition
25 SUITABLE	One wearing a bustle arranged fitting (8)	I inside anagram of A BUSTLE
27 CARPE DIEM	Enjoy the present sink used in reconditioned camper (5,4)	DIE inside anagram of CAMPER
28 USUAL	Organisation of Aussie Rules not supporting series as expected (5)	Anagram of AUSSIE RULES minus SERIES
29 PILE	Large number supporting column (4)	Double Definition
30 EXPANSION	Unknown amount, included in a pension, affected inflation (9)	X inside anagram of A PENSION

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 BRAISE	Sprig of basil to enhance stew? (6)	(B)asil + RAISE
2 LOG FIRE	One interrupting wayward golfer should be warmer (3,4)	I inside anagram of GOLFER
3 BUNDLE OF NERVES	Very timid, anxious person - bread vendor - feels disturbed (6,2,6)	BUN + anagram of VENDOR FEELS
4 ADMINISTER	Handle small cars in trade with fluctuation (10)	MINIS inside anagram of TRADE
5 DISH	Scandinavian, not an attractive one (4)	DANISH minus AN
7 IMPIOUS	Wicked state representative, say, one flanked by markers (7)	(MP + I) inside IOUS
8 SENATORS	Seniors ignoring one grabbing at house sitters? (8)	(SENIORS minus I) outside AT
9 THREE-POINT TURN	Replaced iron then putter with plan to change course (5-5,4)	Anagram of IRON THEN PUTTER
14 CONTOUR MAP	Orienteering guide doing the rounds in camp on the rocky side (7,3)	(ON TOUR) inside anagram of CAMP
17 WORLD CUP	Head of Liverpool in crowd excited by finished international competition (5,3)	(L)iverpool inside anagram of CROWD + UP
20 FUNERAL	Skylarking spoilt real serious ceremony held to say goodbye (7)	FUN + anagram of REAL
22 TABOULI	Salad mix is tossed about and left by one (7)	Anagram of ABOUT + L + I
23 TEFLON	Nothing sticks to this crooked felon after time is served (6)	Anagram of FELON after T
26 PIKE	One who pulls out mostly fish (4)	(PIKE)r