

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 19/9/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 BICYCLED	Took part in a road race organised by ICC and showed the way (8)	Anagram of BY ICC + LED
5 SPACES	Special, highly skilled people, cleared areas (6)	SP + ACES
10 SPADE	Dig one in a suit (5)	Double Definition
11 CORPORATE	A port rebuilt in centre should be shared (9)	Anagram of A PORT inside CORE
12 CAME TO LIGHT	A comet, terribly faint, appeared (4,2,5)	Anagram of A COMET + LIGHT
13 LID	Credentials printed on the back of large cover (3)	ID after L
14 ROLLER COASTER	Local restorer restored playground equipment? (6,7)	Anagram of LOCAL RESTORER
18 DELICATESSENS	Had food, two courses, in a variety of licensed food shops (13)	(ATE + S+S) inside anagram of LICENSED
22 APT	Proper laptop with peripheral cut off (3)	LAPTOP minus LOP
23 SIR LANCELOT	Knight's sword originally taken from ruined Roslin Castle (3,8)	Anagram of ROSLIN CASTLE minus (S)word
26 CORTISONE	Anti-inflammatory agent is not mistakenly injected into heart (9)	Anagram of IS NOT inside CORE
27 ARETE	Expanse of bare terrain containing a sharp ridge (5)	bARE TErrain
28 DINGHY	Slightly damage handy kind of boat? (6)	DING + H and Y
29 ASBESTOS	Fireproof material, for instance, most desirable overseas (8)	AS + BEST + OS

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 BASICS	Form of tax is incorporating cold hard facts (6)	(BAS + IS) outside C
2 CRAMMER	Hard-working student caught with heavy hitter (7)	C + RAMMER
3 CHEST	Form of ethics not supporting one case (5)	Anagram of ETHICS minus I
4 EXCELLENT	Former fashion magazine, named at the outset in court, is remarkably good (9)	EX + [ELLE + (N)amed] inside CT
6 PROSTRATE	Flat rate underpinning expert's time (9)	RATE after (PROS + T)
7 CHAPLET	A prayerful person might use this piano in mountain lodge (7)	P inside CHALET
8 SPENDERS	Writer, wearing dress, teased people who like to splash out (8)	PEN inside anagram of DRESS
9 BRIG	Prison on the banks of river is extensive (4)	BIG outside R
15 LOCKSMITH	Football player's story recounted for security expert (9)	LOCK + sounds like MYTH
16 CASTANETS	Stage performers sent a redesigned percussion instrument (9)	CAST + anagram of SENT A
17 ADVANCED	Progressive dance plugged by five in commercial (8)	(V inside DANCE) inside AD
19 LATER ON	One not supported by misguided relation in time (5,2)	Anagram of RELATION minus I
20 SALIENT	Prominent foreigner captured in stone (7)	ALIEN inside ST
21 ATHENS	Birds staying behind at Greek spot (6)	HENS after AT
24 RIOT	One involved in corruption and wild behaviour (4)	I inside ROT
25 CRANE	Lifter competed in brace with no support (5)	RAN inside (BRACE minus BRA)