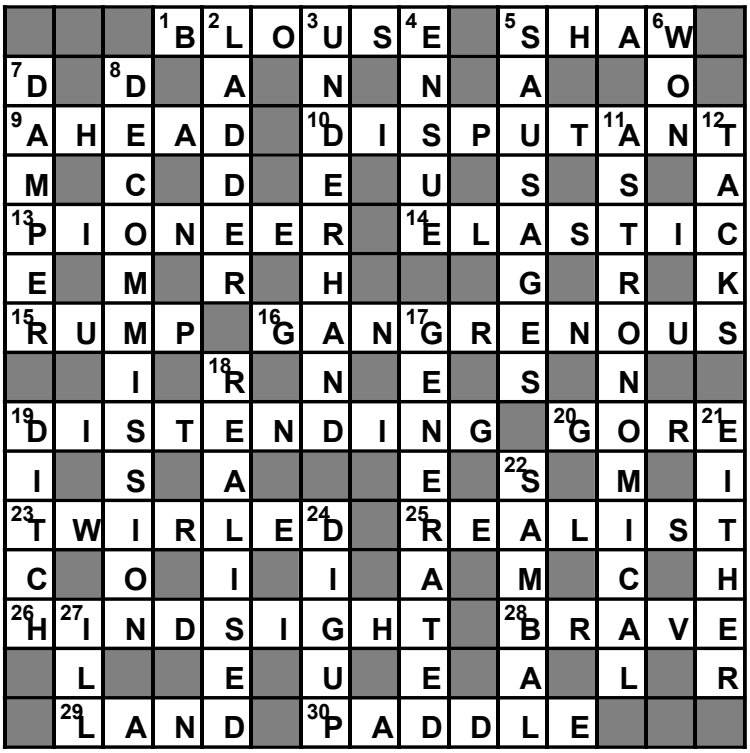
AFR Cryptic (Saturday 31/10/2026) Solution



Across	Clue	Explanation
1 BLOUSE	Top opening to book, a contemptible one (6)	(B)ook + LOUSE
5 SHAW	Irish dramatist and critic is certainly outspoken (4)	Sounds like SURE
9 AHEAD	Leading male starring in a commercial (5)	HE inside (A + AD)
10 DISPUTANT	Arguer is backed up in unfriendly case (9)	(UP reversed) inside DISTANT
13 PIONEER	One after another joining in for every launch? (7)	(ONE after I) inside PER
14 ELASTIC	Part of label - a sticky strip of flexible material (7)	labEL A STICky
15 RUMP	Alcohol served with soft cut of meat (4)	RUM + P
16 GANGRENOUS	Mortified band of criminals worked on user ()	GANG + anagram of ON USER
19 DISTENDING	Doctor primarily is looking after swelling ()	(D)octor + IS + TENDING
20 GORE	Become embarrassed shedding a little blood (4)	GO RE(d
23 TWIRLED	Irregular writ was first turned around (7)	Anagram of WRIT + LED
25 REALIST	One who's pragmatic about a tip (7)	RE + A + LIST
26 HINDSIGHT	Thinking back, detective expressed regret entering tip (9)	(D + SIGH) inside HINT
28 BRAVE	Challenge closing of club just before large party (5)	clu(B) + RAVE
29 LAND	Country's computer system died (4)	LAN + D
30 PADDLE	Play in water with canoe (6)	Double Definition

Down	Clue	Explanation
2 LADDER	Run from large snake (6)	L + ADDER
3 UNDERHAND	Where hieroglyphics may be filed together with secret? (9)	(UNDER H) + AND
4 ENSUE	Come after men not declaring millions, and prosecute (5)	MEN minus M + SUE
5 SAUSAGES	A treatment applied to the cargo of ship's food (8)	(A + USAGE) inside SS
6 WON	Asian capital is at present in recession (3)	NOW reversed
7 DAMPER	Nuts piled up for a bush bread (6)	MAD reversed + PER
8 DECOMMISSION	School teacher in nice mood refused to retire? (12)	MISS inside anagram of NICE MOOD
11 ASTRONOMICAL	Huge starter taken away from epicurean (12)	(g)ASTRONOMICAL
12 TACKS	Approaches assessment from a sound perspective (5)	Sounds like TAX
17 GENERATED	Green tea, blended and blended, ultimately is made (9)	Anagram of GREEN TEA + blende(D)
18 REALISED	Study containing rocky isle is completed (8)	READ outside anagram of ISLE
19 DITCH	Get rid of dog's head irritation (5)	(D)og + ITCH
21 EITHER	One or the other number divided by one? (6)	ETHER outside I
22 SAMBAL	Side dish, say, mostly served with stewed lamb (6)	(SA)y + anagram of LAMB
24 DIG UP	Discover sawn-off weapon buried in hollow (3,2)	GU(n) inside DIP
27 ILL	Unfavourable legal document lacking an introductory section (3)	(w)ILL