

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 15/8/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 BUSHCRAFT	Bus and hire car float? Such Australian know-how! (9)	BUS + HC + RAFT
6 COAST	Sail cover snagged on pole (5)	COAT outside S(outh)
9 STIRRUP	Runs in to stimulate support for rider (7)	R inside STIR UP
10 TEAPOTS	Soft drink mostly carried by milk suppliers and brewers (7)	(PO)p inside TEATS
11 CROWN	Rook close to fallen king (5)	CROW + falle(N)
12 OBSTINATE	Persistent botanist replanted eucalypts at the front (9)	Anagram oif BOTANTIST + (E)ucalypts
14 RYE	Shareholders of distillery evaluated whisky? (3)	distilleRY Evaluated
15 CORNERSTONE	Preserve deformed trees on groundwork (11)	CORN + anagram of TREES ON
17 IN THE SADDLE	Leading site handled poorly (2,3,6)	Anagram of SITE HANDLED
19 PAT	Some butter, maybe, and a lot of fancy spread (3)	(PAT)e
20 SOUR CREAM	Make a lot of noise about our fermented product (4,5)	SCREAM outside OUR
22 MATHS	Academic one pulled out of this school subject (5)	MA + (THIS minus I)
24 ABATING	Dropping off a container of preserves sealed in bag (7)	A + (TIN inside BAG)
26 TARTARE	Saucy thing could be biting ear, strangely (7)	TART + anagram of EAR
27 EXILE	Old friend that is hugging large deportee (5)	EX + (IE outside L)
28 STRANGLED	Learner, sitting in unfamiliar Datsun at the front, throttled (9)	L inside STRANGE + (D)atsun

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 BASIC	Key is needed in hire car travelling around (5)	(IS inside CAB) reversed
2 SKI POLE	Sleep in one with stock (3,4)	KIP inside SOLE
3 CHRONICLE	Record carbon absorbed by unstable chlorine (9)	C inside anagram of CHLORINE
4 APPROPRIATE	Suitable software or withdrawn development of pirate? (11)	APP + (RO reversed) + anagram of PIRATE
5 TAT	Tasteless things upset a teacher to some extent (3)	upseT A Teacher
6 COATI	Relative of the raccoon, one found on south side of hide (5)	I after COAT
7 AVOCADO	Fruit and eggs served up cold before a function (7)	OVA reversed + C + A + DO
8 TASTE TEST	Newly-formed state, ahead of time, established consumer research (5,4)	Anagram of STATE + T + EST
13 SPEEDOMETER	Pressure in plant distorted remote device that measures velocity (11)	P inside SEED + anagram of REMOTE
14 REINSTATE	Bring back check, say (9)	REIN + STATE
16 STEAM IRON	Gentleman, taking competitive group on, could be smoother (5,4)	(SIR outside TEAM)+ ON
18 TSUNAMI	Emission from midnight sun, a minute wave? (7)	midnightT SUN A Minute
19 PITFALL	Dose of medicine spread on the outside of fat, cooked snag (7)	PILL outside anagram of FAT
21 CHIME	Ring that man placed in centre of bracelet (5)	HIM inside bra(CE)let
23 SPEND	Lay out page in dispatch (5)	P inside SEND
25 GAS	Drop over some fuel (3)	SAG reversed