

# AFR Cryptic (Saturday 23/9/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 BUCKLE DOWN	Stud was first to have to make a determined effort (6,4)	BUCK + LED + OWN
6 DEED	Act's text published in trade editions (4)	traDE EDitions
10 BERMUDA TRIANGLE	Mature bird changed direction in mysterious Atlantic region (7,8)	Anagram of MATURE BIRD + ANGLE
11 LEACH	Drain meadow next to church (5)	LEA + CH
12 DELICATES	Some going out infested with lice changed underwear (9)	DATES outside anagram of LICE
13 DYNAMICS	Varying levels of loudness I and many recalled in remastered CDs (8)	(I + MANY) reversed inside anagram of CDS
15 FLIGHT	Air transport's departure (6)	Double Definition
18 PRYING	Intrusive religious activity not reflecting Paul's second letter (6)	PRAYING minus p(A)ul
19 RUSSIANS	Issuer hasn't reapplied without including the foreign people (8)	Anagram of ISSUER HASNT minus THE
22 TRANSIENT	Temporary service is returned in camping facility (9)	[RAN + (IS reversed)] inside TENT
24 VESTA	Match against established side from Australia (5)	V + EST + (A)ustralia
25 AS KEEN AS MUSTARD	Very enthusiastic request sends amateur all over the place (2,4,2,7)	ASK + anagram of SENDS AMATEUR
26 EYED	Region of Sydney editor looked at (4)	sydnEY EDitor
27 BEER GARDEN	Be enraged about fencing restricted area outside for drinkers (4,6)	BE + anagram of ENRAGED outside R

<b>Down</b>	<b>Clue</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
1 BUBBLED	Baby ran and gurgled (7)	BUB + BLED
2 CERTAINTY	React badly one time in New York, in fact (9)	Anagram of REACT + I + (T inside NY)
3 LAUGH	Characters in charge of onslaught crack up (5)	onsLAUGHt
4 DEAD DUCK	Failure departed with no score (4,4)	DEAD + DUCK
5 WARMLY	Guarded outside vacated mill in a friendly way? (6)	WARY outside M(il)L
7 EIGHT	Start missed by power rowing team (5)	(w)EIGHT
8 DEEP-SET	Travel quickly around heart of ghetto placed far in? (4-3)	SPEED reversed + gh(ET)to
9 CALCULUS	Ring us about copper's problem-solving technique (8)	(CALL + US) outside CU
14 MINISTER	Fellow checking in government bigwig (8)	MISTER outside IN
16 GRASSLAND	Donkey left grazing in magnificent pasture (9)	(ASS + L) inside GRAND
17 CUSTOMER	Patron caught employer admitting to mistake initially (8)	(C + USER) outside [TO + (M)istake]
18 PET HATE	Chief object of dislike that sat in urine (3,4)	THAT inside PEE
20 STAND-IN	Offensive act taking time and reserve (5-2)	SIN outside (T + AND)
21 DEFACE	Vandalise and damage unoccupied, renovated cafe? (6)	D(amag)E + anagram of CAFE
23 ANKLE	Flanker out of bounds twisted joint? (5)	Anagram of f)LANKE(r
24 VISTA	Panorama from capital of Tibet is plastic-wrapped? (5)	T inside VISA