

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 5/9/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 FAST BOWLER	One who's quick to stay away from food left in a shady enclosure (4,6)	FAST + (L inside BOWER)
6 ACTS	Cancel announced routines (4)	Sounds like AXE
10 SMILE ON	Show favour to son travelling across a great distance (5,2)	SON outside MILE
11 TWIRLER	Drunken writer found in possession of large revolver (7)	Anagram of WRITER outside L
12 FIRESTORM	Breather operated initially in strong blaze (9)	[REST + (O)perated] inside FIRM
13 CLEAN	Pure energy harnessed by family group (5)	E inside CLAN
14 REPORT	Work for a newspaper on computer interface (6)	RE + PORT
16 STRINGY	Tough band gathered in part of farm (7)	RING inside STY
17 LIE	Outsider not bound by an untruthful statement (3)	a)LIE(n
19 DINGBAT	Eccentric bandit scattered around 10dollars (7)	Anagram of BANDIT outside G
20 ABSEIL	Base organised unharnessed, wild vertical descent? (6)	Anagram of BASE + w)IL(d
23 HIT ON	Unexpectedly discover it in sweetheart's possession (3,2)	IT inside HON
24 DINNER SET	Resident excited about last part of dawn service (6,3)	Anagram of RESIDENT outside daw(N)
26 TEARFUL	Tense and lengthy rebuke is harrowing (7)	T + EARFUL
27 IRKSOME	One reformed smoker is disagreeable (7)	I + anagram of SMOKER
28 PALM	Friend married one giving up dates (4)	PAL + M
29 APPEARANCE	Soft legume worked planted in great aspect (10)	(P + PEA + RAN) inside ACE

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 FISH-FARM	Fine accepted by firm has rocked primary producer (4-4)	F inside anagram of FIRM HAS
2 SKIER	Lodge resident very quietly slipped away from one in charge (5)	SKIPPER minus PP
3 BEEF STROGANOFF	Forget beans cooked with bad meat dish (4,10)	Anagram of FORGET BEANS + OFF
4 WANTON	Pale colour mostly pointless (6)	WAN + (TON)e
5 ESTIMATE	Get the measure of one male occupying property (8)	(I + M) inside ESTATE
7 COLLEAGUE	Workmate is separated from collies with fever (9)	COLL(i)E(s) + AGUE
8 SHRINE	End to prayer in Polish place of worship (6)	praye(R) inside SHINE
9 CIRCUIT BREAKER	Confused brickie cut rear switch (7,7)	Anagram of BRICKIE CUT REAR
15 PAINTBALL	Missile used in war games ain't coated in lead completely (9)	(AINT inside PB) + ALL
16 SIT	Model is running over time (3)	IS reversed + T
17 LANDSLIP	Groundbreaking action plans I'd modified after laughing initially (8)	Anagram of PLANS ID outside (L)aughing
18 ALL THERE	Learners entering at this place must be alert (3,5)	(LL inside AT) + HERE
21 CHAT UP	Flirt with bowler, say, taking part in sporting contest (4,2)	HAT inside CUP
22 IN LINE	Slope down front side of castle is straight (2,4)	INCLINE minus (C)astle
25 SCORN	Look down on small growth of skin (5)	S + CORN