

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 19/7/2025) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 HABIT	High somewhat? That's addiction (5)	H + A BIT
4 ETRUSCANS	Old Italians converted true digital images (9)	Anagram of TRUE + SCANS
9 INSWING	Movement of delivery from one state in Germany's western part (7)	I + NSW + IN + (G)ermany
10 SURGEON	Strong desire held by son's doctor (7)	URGE inside SON
11 READERS DIGEST	Disagreed with new layout in leisure publication (7,6)	Anagram of DISAGREED inside REST
14 LANK	Long and thin pieces of wood with trimmed ends (4)	p)LANK(s)
15 TURFED OUT	Trade union, given food in disorderly retreat, may be expelled (6,3)	TU + (FED inside ROUT)
18 SMELT A RAT	Suspected something from faulty alarm test (5,1,3)	Anagram of ALARM TEST
19 OR SO	Front piece ripped from trunk roughly (2,2)	(t)ORSO
21 INSUBORDINATE	Recalcitrant is in navy vessel to speak about commotion (13)	IN + SUB +(ORATE outside DIN)
24 ECONOMY	Thrifty management company involved in distribution of money (7)	CO inside anagram of MONEY
26 ECHIDNA	Spiky creature sought refuge in field of scattered cane (7)	HID inside anagram of CANE
27 STRANGERS	Park officers at end of street with foreigners (9)	RANGERS after ST
28 DRY UP	Become unproductive as doctor committed to casual agreement (3,2)	DR + YUP

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 HAIR	Filament is hot when in contact with gaseous mixture (4)	H + AIR
2 BUSHRANGERS	Coach employed by personnel angers Raiders, perhaps (11)	BUS + HR + ANGERS
3 TRIBAL	Blood group found in test related to people of common descent (6)	B inside TRIAL
4 EGG-BEATER	Kitchen appliance, for example, used by consumer from Great Britain? (3-6)	EG + GB-EATER
5 RUSES	Leader of rebellion takes advantage of cunning manoeuvres (5)	(R)ebellion + USES
6 STRAINED	Side's opener practised under pressure (8)	(S)ide + TRAINED
7 ATE	A number heard what consumers did (3)	Sounds like EIGHT
8 SANITATION	Large farm around a home fixed up drainage system (10)	STATION outside [A + (IN reversed)]
12 ECO-FRIENDLY	Cultivated rye field once mostly green (3-8)	Anagram of (RYE FIELD ONC)e
13 FLASHINESS	Fine girl possessing sparkle and flamboyance (10)	(F + LASS) outside SHINE
16 RETAILERS	Merchants regarding realist in an unusual way (9)	RE + anagram of REALIST
17 STUBBORN	Small tub, delivered, is not flexible (8)	S + TUB + BORN
20 HASHED	He had fencing wood chopped up (6)	HED outside ASH
22 RHYME	Religious song abbreviated in the middle of free verse (5)	HYM(e) inside f(RE)e
23 WASP	Stinger was first to pounce (4)	WAS + (P)ounce
25 OAR	One rowing boat in the middle, right? (3)	b(OA)t + R