

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 23/8/2025) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 HEROISM	Boldness is shown in her room regularly (7)	IS inside [HER + r(O)o(M)]
5 TAMING	Minister, wearing identification, is breaking in (6)	MIN inside TAG
9 BASIL	Ingredient of pesto as listed in incomplete invoice (5)	AS inside BIL(l)
10 DECORATOR	Interior designer last month briefly hooked up with speaker (9)	DEC + ORATOR
11 LANDMARK	Feature with Bond's boss involved in carefree adventure (8)	(AND + M) inside LARK
12 CHIP IN	Awful physician not needing, say, to make a contribution (4,2)	Anagram of PHYSICIAN minus SAY
14 UNCONTROLLABLE	Furious relative checking on bill containing bread (14)	UNCLE outside [ON + (TAB outside ROLL)]
16 BREAD-AND-BUTTER	Bad burn treated with new preparation that's practical (5-3-6)	Anagram of BAD BURN TREATED
20 RAMBLE	Start to run, walk and meander (6)	(R)un + AMBLE
22 DETRITUS	Nothing exported from Detroit, America, remains (8)	DETROIT minus O + US
24 ANDROMEDA	An Italian city, featured in supplement, brought back a bunch of stars (9)	AN + [ROME inside (ADD reversed)]
25 NAIVE	Innocent local not taking time (5)	NATIVE minus T
26 NEEDED	Required leader not used by one editor repeatedly (6)	(o)NE + (ED + ED)
27 SLOGGED	Far side of woods, stripped of trees, is hit hard (7)	wood(S) + LOGGED

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 HOBBLE	Bees, heard inside cavity, make progress with difficulty (6)	Sounds like BB inside HOLE
2 RESONANCE	Vibrancy on a screen varied (9)	Anagram of ON A SCREEN
3 IN LIMBO	One vote against accepting member is pending (2,5)	I + (NO outside LIMB)
4 MODERATING	Demo arranged before lecture is becoming less violent (10)	Anagram of DEMO + RATING
5 TACT	Time to do something with diplomacy (4)	T + ACT
6 MARSHAL	Damages assessed by hospital and a large group (7)	MARS + H + A + L
7 NOT UP	Tennis umpire's call is presented the wrong way (3,2)	(PUT ON) reversed
8 ORANGE	Fruit variety available after opening of orchard (6)	RANGE after (O)rchard
13 DOUBLE BASS	B&B, say, managed by one foolish musician? (6,4)	B twice (DOUBLE B) + ASS
15 BREATHING	Bear savaged by creature is alive (9)	Anagram of BEAR + THING
16 BUREAU	Holiday unit with gold furniture (6)	BURE + AU
17 DELTOID	Was first up to identify shoulder muscle (7)	LED reversed + TO + ID
18 TORONTO	Excerpt from narrator on touring part of Canada (7)	narraTOR ON TOuring
19 ASCEND	Climb, for instance, face of cliff with wind up (6)	AS + (C)liff + END
21 MIDGE	Grey mounted grey, oddly, with bug (5)	DIM reversed + (G)r(E)y
23 LEND	Advance left on purpose (4)	L + END