

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 30/5/2025) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 LIFE SPAN	Decrypted files criticise maximum time spent working (4,4)	Anagram of FILES + PAN
5 PAROLE	Conditionally release play without every second part (6)	P(l)A(y) + ROLE
10 CLAMOUR	Cold ending of political affair generated outcry (7)	C + politica(L) + AMOUR
11 LOADING	A racket noted in journal is appearing on screen (7)	(A + DIN) inside LOG
12 ERECT	Standing on ceremony initially in middle of cemetery (5)	[ON + (C)eremony] inside cem(ET)ery
13 SNOWDRIFT	Directly drive inside separate feature of Thredbo, say (9)	(NOW + DR) inside SIFT
14 POSTGRADUATE	"Who wants more qualifications adjusted?", a tutor gasped (12)	Anagram of A TUTOR GASPED
18 PLAIN-DEALING	Honest dean moved into place suffering from poor health (5-7)	Anagram of DEAN inside (PL + AILING)
21 COLD FRONT	Old Father, working in court, identified change in atmosphere (4,5)	(OLD + FR + ON) inside CT
23 GET TO	Arrive at poor part of city with no hospital (3,2)	GHETTO minus H
24 ROOSTER	Farm animal, duck, included in inventory (7)	O inside ROSTER
25 OPALINE	Say something about aluminium and glass (7)	OPINE outside AL
26 MUSCLE	Uncle Sam moved around without using an elevator, for instance (6)	Anagram of UNCLE SAM minus AN
27 ASSESSOR	Fool ordered roses for someone in the tax department (8)	ASS + anagram of ROSES

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 LACKEY	Servant trimmed lace of great importance (6)	LAC(e) + KEY
2 FEARED	Sensor grabbed by American agent as anticipated (6)	EAR inside FED
3 SHORTHORN	Cow and horse mostly chewed something prickly (9)	Anagram of (HORS)e + THORN
4 ACROSS-THE-BOARD	A sober host ordered in eccentric General (6-3-5)	A + (anagram of SOBER HOST inside CARD)
6 AWARD	A council's administrative division bestowed honour (5)	A + WARD
7 ORIGINAL	Novel is not written about one game of cards (8)	ORAL outside (I + GIN)
8 EIGHTEEN	Number three-way joint needed in new design of hinge (8)	TEE inside anagram of HINGE
9 BLOOD RELATIONS	Soldier on boat switched around large family (5,9)	Anagram of SOLDIER ON BOAT outside L
15 DENIGRATE	One taking part in study recollected great slander (9)	I inside (DEN + anagram of GREAT)
16 SPECTRUM	Range and assortment of crumpets (8)	Anagram of CRUMPETS
17 BALLOONS	Gasbags wholly taking part in benefits (8)	ALL inside BOONS
19 STEINS	Bits of toothpaste in small mugs (6)	toothpaSTE IN Small
20 DOG-EAR	Establish a place to take drugs (3-3)	DO + GEAR
22 FATAL	Adipose tissue added to male's middle could be disastrous (5)	FAT + m(AL)e