AFR Cryptic (Saturday 24/10/2026) Solution

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 LATER	A little peripheral (a terminal) in the future (5)	peripheraL A TERminal
4 SUSTAINED	American wearing black is held up (9)	US inside STAINED
9 CHALICE	Chap mostly left very cold water in drinking cup (7)	(CHA)p + L + ICE
10 EXISTED	Was left outside entrance to stadium (7)	EXITED outside (S)tadium
11 THEATRE CRITIC	Sort of erratic jerk chasing the drama expert (7,6)	(Anagram of ERRATIC + TIC) after THE
14 SCAM	Computers backed a fraudulent business scheme (4)	MACS reversed
15 CROWS NEST	Snow formed in top place where there's a lookout (5,4)	Anagram of SNOW inside CREST
18 INTERCEPT	Check adjustment to tent price (9)	Anagram of TENT PRICE
19 BRIO	Spirit revealed primarily in facts of life? (4)	(R)evealed inside BIO
21 THREE-DAY EVENT	The veteran, Dye, arranged a horse-riding contest (5-3,5)	Anagram of THE VETERAN DYE
24 NUPTIAL	Wedding finished in translation of Latin (7)	UP inside anagram of LATIN
26 APRICOT	Orange-yellow rice mostly prepared in a cooker (7)	(RIC)e inside (A + POT)
27 EMERGENCE	Men spread throughout Greece orchestrated development (9)	MEN scattered throughout anagram of GREECE
28 SALLY	Set out on an excursion south with friend (5)	S + ALLY

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 LACK	Want trousers trimmed on both sides (4)	s)LACK(s
2 TOASTMASTER	Preview plugged by a most excited host (11)	TASTER outside anagram of A MOST
3 RAIDER	Condition broken by a footballer from Canberra (6)	RIDER outside A
4 SPECTACLE	Caretaker, originally in set place, arranged exhibition (9)	(C)aretaker inside anagram of SET PLACE
5 SWEDE	European married in the middle of Messenia (5)	WED inside mes(SE)nia
6 APIARIST	A doddery pair is heading to the person with hives (8)	A + anagram of PAIR + IS +(T)he
7 NET	Clear obstacle dividing court (3)	Double Definition
8 DEDICATION	Editor recalled speech about a commitment (10)	ED reversed + (DICTION outside A)
12 THEORETICAL	The exam containing quote about abstract (11)	THE + [ORAL outside (CITE reversed)]
13 ASSISTANCE	Help as is needed in position (10)	AS + (IS inside STANCE)
16 ON THE TAKE	Greek character, king, imprisoned by one accepting bribes (2,3,4)	(THETA +K) inside ONE
17 FREEZING	Complimentary spirit is very cold (8)	FREE + ZING
20 DEBRIS	One who's coming out with teacher picked up rubbish (6)	DEB + (SIR reversed)
22 ALL-IN	Occupation within borders without restrictions? (3-2)	c(ALLIN)g
23 STAY	Support postponement (4)	Double Definition
25 PEE	Noble giving up right to visit ladies, say (3)	PEER minus R