

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 16/8/2025) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 PIRACY	Private investigator linked to spirited theft (6)	PI + RACY
4 BRISTLED	Prickly Englishman, crossing second, was in front (8)	(BRIT outside S) + LED
9 RETRIAL	Trio not fully represented in legitimate court action (7)	(TRI)o inside REAL
11 CANASTA	Call off all but the last part of a stag's card game (7)	CAN + A + STA(g)
12 MANUFACTURING	Wild African gumnut? That's fabrication (13)	Anagram of AFRICAN GUMNUT
14 THE RAM	A bit of bother - a motorway sign (3,3)	boTHER A Motorway
15 REAPPEAR	Come back to harvest fruit (8)	REAP + PEAR
18 RUMINANT	Meditative spirit in one loyal to the Queen (8)	RUN + IN + ANT
20 ANTRUM	Ant coming in contact with strange cavity (6)	ANT + RUM
23 SOCKEYE SALMON	Fish definitely included in cook's meal upset one's gut? (7,6)	YES inside anagram of COOKS MEAL + o(N)e
26 EMANATE	Celebrity turned and put away issue (7)	NAME reversed + ATE
27 TORNADO	Cooked tandoori mostly produced a great deal of wind (7)	Anagram of (TANDOOR)i
28 PLEASURE	Earnest appeal guaranteed satisfaction (8)	PLEA + SURE
29 SMUTTY	Dirty dog found in vacated shanty? (6)	MUTT inside S(hant)Y

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 PARAMETERS	Knock back newfangled steamer with limiting factors (10)	RAP reversed + anagram of STEAMER
2 RETINUE	Tenants of home unit errantly sent back suite (7)	home UNIT ERrantly reversed
3 CHIEFTAIN	Tribal leader that is held by feet bound by chain (9)	(IE + FT) inside CHAIN
5 RECOUPED	Recovered motor car painted in a bright colour (8)	COUPE inside RED
6 SINAI	Egyptian destination some pass in Airbus (5)	pasS IN Airbus
7 LASAGNE	Dip, in a small way, is food (7)	SAG inside LANE
8 DEAD	Pop round drug, not feeling anything (4)	DAD outside E
10 LACE	Expert behind large network (4)	ACE after L
13 PROMONTORY	Head for hill in New York after short time (10)	PRO + [(TOR inside NY) after MO]
16 PENTAGRAM	Fold label printed with animal symbol that's magical (9)	PEN + TAG + RAM
17 INNER EAR	Winner not bound to bring up something needed for audition? (5,3)	w)INNE(r + REAR
19 MESSAGE	Mother's learned manipulation (7)	MAS + SAGE
21 RAMPANT	A parliamentarian involved in angry tirade is uncontrollable (7)	(A + MP) inside RANT
22 BEAT	Attend a course run regularly (4)	BE AT
24 CHAOS	Carbon and oxygen, separating, experiences disorder (5)	C + (O inside HAS)
25 TEMP	Worker sometimes contacted retired coppers at the centre (4)	MET reversed + cop(P)ers