

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 22/3/2025) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 PALATE	Taste starter of anchovies presented in dish (6)	(A)nchovies inside PLATE
4 PRICE CUT	Discount place stocking rice crackers at the front (5,3)	PUT outside [RICE + (C)rackers]
9 MATERIALISATION	Mate is clothed by a tailor in organised appearance (15)	MATE + (IS inside anagram of A TAILOR IN)
11 OPERATED	Speed included in distribution of dope should be controlled (8)	RATE inside anagram of DOPE
12 IMPALE	Run through sick person's admission perhaps (6)	IM PALE
13 SKIP	Leave out rubbish bin (4)	Double Definition
14 CONTINUOUS	Union scout worked without a break (10)	Anagram of UNION SCOUT
18 LIGHT METER	Camera gear fitted inside flame thrower (5,5)	MET inside LIGHTER
19 PROF	Piano beneficial to retired teacher of note (4)	P + (FOR reversed)
22 NUMBAT	Australian termite eater paralysed ants regularly (6)	NUMB + (A)n(T)s
24 TOLERANT	Catholic rushed in to lease (8)	RAN inside (TO + LET)
26 IN THE ALTOGETHER	Theatre light, one out of order, is stripped (2,3,10)	Anagram of THEATRE LIGHT ONE
27 STRAYING	Roving kind of fish shielded by piercing weapon? (8)	RAY inside STING
28 UTERUS	Unwavering trade union backed young developer (6)	(SURE + TU) reversed

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 POMPOUS	Overbearing Englishman ordered soup (7)	POM + anagram of SOUP
2 LATHERING	Ring under shaping tool is making foam (9)	RING after LATHE
3 TARMAC	Road surfacing division, stationed in ACT, relocated (6)	ARM inside anagram of ACT
5 RAID	Pressure released by speedy attack (4)	RAPID minus P
6 CLAIMANT	Accuser's objective admitted by close social worker (8)	AIM inside (CL + ANT)
7 CHINA	Porcelain items from church in Antioch (5)	churCH IN Antioch
8 TENDERS	Inexperienced seller's opening bids (7)	TENDER + (S)eller
10 ACETONE	Excellent colour for a solvent (7)	ACE + TONE
15 TREMOLO	Redesigned motel roof without 50% fluctuation in pitch (7)	Anagram of MOTEL + RO(of)
16 OUR FATHER	Prayer at four excited most of flock (3,6)	Anagram of AT FOUR + (HER)d
17 STRATEGY	Contract not put forward in odd plan of action (8)	GET reversed inside STRAY
18 LENTILS	Time of fasting is broken by large vegetarian meal for one (7)	LENT + (IS outside L)
20 FUTURES	Commodities, dealer offloaded from defaulter, sure varied greatly (7)	Anagram of DEFAULTER SURE minus DEALER
21 RELENT	Give in on fast time (6)	RE + LENT
23 METER	Apparatus for measuring oxygen extracted from heavenly body (5)	METEOR minus O
25 CLAN	Family group caught with a number of computers connected up (4)	C + LAN