

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 8/2/2025) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 RACE RELATIONS	Ecstasy taken by speed freaks in Ethnic Affairs (4,9)	ELATION inside RACERS
9 BLASTED	Terminal in base exploded (7)	LAST inside BED
10 HADRIAN	Wall builder has cut off broken drain (7)	HA(s) + anagram of DRAIN
11 THIGH	Time taken with gamy piece of chicken (5)	T + HIGH
12 SPRINTERS	They run fast, small computer devices (9)	S + PRINTERS
13 CRITERIA	Procedure in clubs backed broadcast standards (8)	RITE inside [C + (AIR reversed)]
15 INTERN	One after another listened to doctor (6)	Sounds like IN TURN
18 TUNICS	Nice suit, terribly short, that is casualwear (6)	Anagram of NICE SUIT minus IE
19 BILE DUCT	"Tube connected to the duodenum" is clued badly in part (4,4)	Anagram of CLUED inside BIT
22 BALLERINA	Drunken liberal backed an individual in first position, say (9)	Anagram of LIBERAL + (AN reversed)
24 SNAIL	One slow to move yacht around pole (5)	SAIL outside N
25 RED WINE	We diners mostly ordered alcohol (3,4)	Anagram of (WE DINER)s
26 CRANAGE	Heavy lifter's charge should be managed in a restricted enclosure (7)	RAN inside CAGE
27 ENGINE-DRIVERS	People in charge of transportation needing distributed waterways (6-7)	Anagram of NEEDING + RIVERS

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 ROBOTIC	Strip of the ear is stiff (7)	ROB + OTIC
2 COALITION	Fossil fuel - it is reduced by half by active political group (9)	COAL + IT + I(s) + ON
3 RETCH	Bring up sealed section of secret chamber (5)	secRET CHamber
4 LADYSHIP	Noble title sadly not normally following the latest fashion (8)	Anagram of SADLY + HIP
5 T-SHIRT	Top shire briefly mentioned in middle of letter (1-5)	SHIR(e) inside le(TT)er
6 ORDINANCE	Established ceremony or social occasion held outside home (9)	OR + (DANCE outside IN)
7 SMITE	Place populated by millions is hit hard (5)	M inside SITE
8 UNISON	Tertiary institution's operating with complete agreement (6)	UNIS + ON
14 EXCEEDING	Great excuse denied us justice ultimately, by accident (9)	EXCUSE minus US + justic(E) + DING
16 EMU PARADE	Dream up a convoluted end to the pick-up line (3,6)	Anagram of DREAM UP A + th(E)
17 FINANCED	Learn about treatment of acne that's guaranteed (8)	FIND outside anagram of ACNE
18 TUBERS	Fleshy underground stems right inside pipes (6)	R inside TUBES
20 TELLERS	Time taken by seller unsettled cashiers (7)	T + anagram of SELLER
21 LIVE-IN	Resident left one with style (4-2)	L + I + VEIN
23 LEDGE	Accounting book discounted narrow projection (5)	LEDGE(r)
24 SWAMI	Religious master was disturbed by one after mass (5)	Anagram of WAS + (I after M)