

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 29/3/2025) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 TUCK SHOP	Minor food supplier gathers plant popular with brewers (4,4)	TUCKS + HOP
5 MASSES	One thousand clowns - that's a lot (6)	M + ASSES
9 WEAKENED	Tie the knot around a dodgy knee lacking strength (8)	WED outside (A + anagram of KNEE)
10 SCRIBE	Plagiarism admitted by some heartless writer? (6)	CRIB inside S(om)E
12 RESISTING ARREST	Rising star, wrongly taking ecstasy before break, is not cooperating with police (9,6)	(Anagram of RISING STAR outside E) + REST
13 LOUNGE	Lie about fencing charge, admitting nothing (6)	LUNGE outside O
15 SLIGHTS	Ignores beacon on board vessel (7)	LIGHT inside SS
18 REMAINS	A miner disturbed head of skeletal corpse (7)	Anagram of A MINER + (S)keletal
20 RUNG UP	Called dog returned after scamper (4,2)	PUG reversed after RUN
22 BIRTHDAY PRESENT	Bad printers - they messed up an anniversary gift (8,7)	ANagram of BAD PRINTERS THEY
25 BLAZON	Fire not fully depicted on a coat-of-arms (6)	BLAZ(e) + ON
26 SUPERIOR	One after change in purse or prize (8)	(I after anagram of PURSE) + OR
27 EATERY	Pals leaving separately confused restaurant (6)	Anagram of SEPARATELY minus PALS
28 LEATHERY	Tough end of silverside marinated in bubbly (8)	silversid(E) inside LATHERY

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 THWART	Check the slightly diminished growth on skin (6)	TH(e) + WART
2 CLASSROOM	Educational facility's young female jumper measured in centimetres (9)	(LASS + ROOM) inside CM
3 SHEDS	Drops off bridging section of unfinished symphony (5)	unfiniSHED Symphony
4 ONE-TIME	Old limitations lifted from money before issue turned up (3-4)	m)ONE(y + (EMIT reversed)
6 ACCORDION	String, one used in a kid's musical instrument (9)	(CORD + I) inside (A + CON)
7 SEIZE	Apprehend witnesses in audience (5)	Sounds like SEES
8 SWEETISH	Elevated golfing area in stylish environs is quite nice (8)	(TEE reversed) inside SWISH
11 AGES	Gets old silver assessed at the centre (4)	AG + ass(ES)sed
14 NEIGHBOUR	Huge robin disturbed one nearby (9)	Anagram of HUGE ROBIN
16 HOUSEWIFE	Exercise in how I iron, is needed for unpaid worker (9)	USE in (HOW + I + FE)
17 PROBABLE	Candidate with a good chance of success implicated lab in inquiry (8)	Anagram of LAB inside PROBE
19 SLAP	Close associates backed rebuke (4)	PALS reversed
20 RAPTURE	Pressure applied by trade union in unusual form of transport (7)	(P + TU) inside RARE
21 STOREY	Keep middle of kayak level (6)	STORE + kaYak
23 ROAST	Baked food, as in tripe (5)	AS inside ROT
24 EVENT	Item on a programme is just running ahead of time (5)	EVEN + T