AFR Cryptic (Xmas 2024) Solution

| | ¹ A | ² C | Α | ³ R | I | ⁴ D | | ⁵ A | С | ⁶ C | Ε | ⁷ P | Т | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|----------------|
| | | 0 | | 0 | | Е | | L | | U | | Α | | |
| ⁸ F | U | N | D | Α | М | Ε | N | Т | Α | L | ı | S | M | |
| R | | С | | S | | Р | | Е | | Р | | S | | ⁹ N |
| ¹⁰ E | Q | U | I | Т | Υ | | ¹¹ B | R | ı | Α | N | Е | N | 0 |
| ΙE | | R | | S | | ¹² | | Ζ | | В | | | | Т |
| ¹³ P | 0 | R | Ε | | ¹⁴ | N | F | Α | L | L | ı | ¹⁵ B | L | Е |
| Α | | Е | | ¹⁶ A | | D | | T | | Е | | R | | W |
| ¹⁷ R | Е | D | I | S | С | 0 | ٧ | Е | R | | ¹⁸ D | Α | D | 0 |
| D | | | | Р | | N | | S | | ¹⁹ P | | S | | R |
| ²⁰ O | R | ²¹ D | Α | ı | N | Ε | D | | ²² P | R | Ε | S | Ε | Т |
| N | | Н | | R | | S | | ²³ P | | 0 | | Е | | Н |
| | ²⁴ P | 0 | L | I | Т | I | С | Α | L | Р | Α | R | Т | Υ |
| | | Т | | N | | Α | | R | | Ε | | I | | |
| | ²⁵ P | I | D | G | I | N | | ²⁶ T | Į | L | L | Ε | R | |

| Across | Clue | Explanation |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 1 ACARID | Cutting pierced by a mite (6) | ACRID outside A |
| 5 ACCEPT | Receive copies wrapped in tape loosely (6) | CC inside anagram of TAPE |
| 8 FUNDAMENTALISM | Support a leader of theology after people misinterpreted Islam's strict religious beliefs (14) | FUND + A +[(T)heology after MEN)] + anagram of ISLAM |
| 10 EQUITY | Justice is quite confused by attorney's conclusion (6) | Anagram of QUITE + attorne(Y) |
| 11 BRIAN ENO | One in bar distracted musician influential in experimental music (5,3) | Anagram of ONE IN BAR |
| 13 PORE | Opening is not very good according to audience (4) | Sounds like POOR |
| 14 INFALLIBLE | Popular old story about misfortune returning is sure to succeed (10) | IN + [FABLE outside (ILL reversed)] |
| 17 REDISCOVER | Once again find wine is finished after start of course (10) | RED + IS + [OVER after (C)ourse] |
| 18 DADO | Decorated part of a wall constructed, in the end, with difficulty (4) | constructe(D) + ADO |
| 20 ORDAINED | Radio broadcast retraction of study as required (8) | Anagram of RADIO + (DEN reversed) |
| 22 PRESET | Research in particular should be arranged in advance (6) | RES inside PET |
| 24 POLITICAL PARTY | Albanese's mob stuffing art policy - it upset group in parliament (9,5) | ALP inside anagram of ART POLICY IT |
| 25 PIDGIN | Sort of lipreading not catering for "real" language (6) | Anagram of LIPREADING minus REAL |
| 26 TILLER | One who works the land steering contraption (6) | Double Definition |

| Down | Clue | Explanation |
|------------------|---|--|
| 2 CONCURRED | Agreed about scoundrel consumed by credibility (9) | (ON + CUR) inside CRED |
| 3 ROASTS | Hot joints, for instance, counted among spoils (6) | AS inside ROTS |
| 4 DEEP | Intellectual visited ladies, say, heading west (4) | PEED reversed |
| 5 ALTERNATES | A large seabird at centre of nest takes turns (10) | A + L + TERN + AT + n(ES)t |
| 6 CULPABLE | Competition expert, punched by learner, is at fault (8) | (CUP + ABLE) outside L |
| 7 PASSE | Old hat faded almost completely (5) | (PASSE)d |
| 8 FREE PARDON | Noble turned up in remote district, initially assigned to Amnesty (4,6) | PEER reversed inside FAR + (D)istrict + ON |
| 9 NOTEWORTHY | Striking, not strange theory, based around tungsten (10) | NOT + anagram of THEORY outside W |
| 12 INDONESIAN | Asian one is briefly adopted by another? (10) | ONES inside INDIAN |
| 15 BRASSERIE | Fresh berries offered outside a small restaurant (9) | Anagram of BERRIES outside (A + S) |
| 16 ASPIRING | One in a vault is ambitious (8) | I inside (A + SPRING) |
| 19 PROPEL | Footballer held down flankers to move ahead? (6) | PROP + h)EL(d |
| 21 DHOTI | Hindu garment currently fashionable in the outskirts of Delhi? (5) | HOT inside (D)elh(I) |
| 23 PART | Leave hazard on course raked over (4) | TRAP reversed |
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