

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 12/10/2024) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 CLEMENTINE	Citrus fruit mild in taste ultimately (10)	CLEMENT + IN + tast(E)
6 FLAB	Fine research unit collected fat (4)	F + LAB
10 PAIRS	Head of programming broadcasts a game of bowls (5)	(P)rogramming + AIRS
11 PETTICOAT	One company invested in particular shabby clothes and underwear (9)	(I+ CO) inside (PET + TAT)
12 BASSET	Hound group behind a form of tax (6)	SET after BAS
13 BREACHES	Barrister's opening gets to violations of the law (8)	(B)arrister + REACHES
14 EXTEND	Add to reference book, except for the beginning and end (6)	(t)EXT + END
16 SLIPPAGE	Cutting attendant's delay (8)	SLIP + PAGE
17 PORPOISE	Sea mammal characterised by power or elegance (8)	P + OR + POISE
19 PESTER	Annoy fellow crossing street (6)	PEER outside ST
21 TITLE BAR	A brittle, fractured part of window (5,3)	Anagram of A BRITTLE
22 SETTLE	Place in Washington not acknowledging a land (6)	SEATTLE minus A
25 EMBELLISH	Centrepiece of Bohemian ring is hard to beautify? (9)	Boh(EM)ian + BELL + IS + H
26 DINGO	Wild animal died during journey (5)	D + IN + GO
27 SHED	Get rid of outdoor storage unit (4)	Double Definition
28 WHITE DWARF	Dense star withdrew, upset about a film's lead character (5,5)	(Anagram of WITHDREW outside A) + (F)ilm

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 CAPABLE	Efficient personal assistant entering message once (7)	PA inside CABLE
2 EXITS	Leaves cross buried in site under reconstruction (5)	X inside anagram of SITE
3 EASTERN ROSELLA	Arrest one prepared to trade a native bird (7,7)	Anagram of ARREST ONE + SELL + A
4 TYPE	Kind characters in captivity, perhaps (4)	captiviTY PERhaps
5 NATURAL	Brown floating up on Russian river is organic (7)	TAN reversed + URAL
7 LION-HEART	Brave person fired up about working with judge (4-5)	LIT outside (ON + HEAR)
8 BATISTE	Club ties fashioned in fine fabric (7)	BAT + anagram of TIES
9 MISAPPREHENDED	Didn't understand forged papers checked by him over and over (14)	Anagram of PAPERS inside (HIM reversed) + ENDED
15 TURNTABLE	Spinner scrambled run during involved battle (9)	Anagram of RUN inside anagram of BATTLE
16 SEE	Recognise top performer missing out on final (3)	SEE(d)
17 PUTTERS	Green activists, say, posted in supplementary information? (7)	UTTER inside PS
18 SPANISH	Censure is expressed in quiet language (7)	(PAN + IS) inside SH
20 REEL OFF	Effortlessly repeat dance of folks at the front (4,3)	REEL + OF + (F)olks
23 TINEA	Traces of ointment in each athlete's foot, say (5)	ointmenT IN EAch
24 WHIT	Comedian interrupted by heckler at the start a little bit (4)	WIT outside (H)eckler