AFR Cryptic (Saturday 17/2/2024) Solution

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Across	Clue	Explanation
1 BATTLE- SCARRED	Veteran cricketer confused scarlet and red (6-7)	BAT + anagram of SCARLET + RED
9 OREGANO	Flavour enhancer or, say, a number (7)	OR + EG + A + NO
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10 RETIREE	Someone no longer working on exhaust pipe at the rear (7)	RE + TIRE + pip(E)
11 LUCRE	Members of sinister cult brought back riches (5)	sinistER CULt reversed
12 HEAVINESS	Male ass bearing grape-grower's weight (9)	(HE + ASS) outside VINE
13 TEAMWORK	Meat cooked right in Chinese pan is a joint effort (8)	Anagram of MEAT + (R inside WOK)
15 DESPOT	Person with more than enough power to clean up mess? (6)	DE-SPOT
18 ROTTER	Weasel-like animal following river beast (6)	OTTER after R
19 BASS HORN	Academic's clipped old orchestra member (4,4)	BAS + SHORN
22 FARMSTEAD	Disoriented mates died east of remote agricultural	(Anagram of MATES +
24 DE ADG	settlement (9)	D) after FAR
24 BEARS	Wild animals are running amok in evacuated buildings? (5)	Anagram of ARE inside B(uilding)S
25 EVIL ONE	I have returned with single character that cannot be	IVE returned + LONE
	trusted (4,3)	
26 DROVING	What a jackaroo might be doing is drifting behind back of herd (7)	ROVING after her(D)
27 SPENDING	Agent, taking care of resolution by married one,	SPY outside (ENDING
MONEY	allocated allowance (8,5)	+ M + ONE)

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 BOOKLET	Trunk containing fine Time publication (7)	(BOLE outside OK) + T
2 TRENCHANT	Ditch worker for biting (9)	TRENCH + ANT
3 LEAVE	Dump large quantity of yeast, for example (5)	(LEAVE)n
4 SHOEHORN	Adjusted hose connected to warning device to fit into a tight space (8)	Anagram of HOSE + HORN
5 ABROAD	Unlimited grog fenced by a criminal overseas? (6)	g)RO(g inside (A + BAD)
6 RETAINERS	Financial inducements are stated by troubled trainees (9)	R + anagram of TRAINEES
7 DIRGE	Network played back end to the sad song (5)	GRID reversed + th(E)
8 GET SET	Be prepared to experiment, for example, in a lift (3,3)	(TEST + EG) reversed
14 WHETSTONE	Who shortened and revised test? One with tool designed to produce an edge (9)	WH(o) + anagram of TEST + ONE
16 PROBATION	Expert staff embracing one testing time (9)	(PRO + BATON) outside I
17 HANDED IN	Submitted representation of a "hidden" magnetic pole? (6,2)	Anagram of A HIDDEN + N
18 RIFLED	Plundered heart of Africa and took off? (6)	af(RI)ca + FLED
20 NOSEGAY	Heard why mature son picked up a bunch of flowers (7)	(Y + AGE + SON) reversed
21 LEGEND	Stretch final explanation of what's what (6)	LEG + END
23 REINS	Cargo of hardware in security checks (5)	hardwaRE IN Security
24 BLOOM	Great growth containing large flower (5)	BOOM outside L