

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Cryptic • by DA

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9	R	I	D	M		N		E			O		C		Y
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11	Q	U	E	S	T	A	C	O	N		G	I	N	G	E
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ACROSS

- 1 Hearing aid to leave back on shelf if pinched? (7)
 5 King's ransom squared away? (4,3) NEST EGGS
 8 Friday partly free (3) RID
 10 Old PM in loud shades, acquiring pot (5,6)
 11 Squat once refurbished into Canberra museum (9)
 12 Unwrapped whip and switch say - a device for swingers? (5)
 13 Even keenly concealing delicacy on request (8)
 15 Paranormal sleuth has row with spy base (6)
 18 See 19-across
 19, 18-across
 Koalas adorning rocky koala sanctuary (8,6)
 22 Prize name of lover-boy? (5)
 24 Stunning blue Fiat convertible hugging bend (9) BEAUTIFUL
 26 Excel in jams, removing plugs from headset? (11)
 27 DeLillo regularly cut back fiction (3)
 28 Crass scam also exposed villains (7)
 29 Lair providing grisly details, at wit's end (7)

DOWN

- 1 Hole pierces sailing ship - fancy! (7)
 3 Vin Diesel shot art film... (5)
 4 ...with precious lines, popular Affleck, at the heart? (2,7)
 6 Bliss novel - life on the edges? Carey nails it! (8)
 7 Flirting love integral to coupling (6)
 8 Stuff of bagels and big bickies? (5) BUBBLES
 9 Swimming children's lifesaver (9)
 10 Set snarls, really extreme, linked to DA's puzzle (7)
 11 Said to count skimmed accounts to make rapid transfers? (9) TELLER ROOTS
 12 Thought company upset on losing principal (9)
 17 Lord's town in New Zealand - Haast down south - rebuilt on bores (8)
 18 Favoured vocal one measuring tooth (7)
 20 Slickest Love Island 27-across linked to do-gooder (7)
 21 One with tendencies to doff a pair of waders? (6)
 23 Play old woman with 'arsh upbringing (5)
 25 Leaf of forest elm will colour in seconds (5)

14:30 - 16:47