

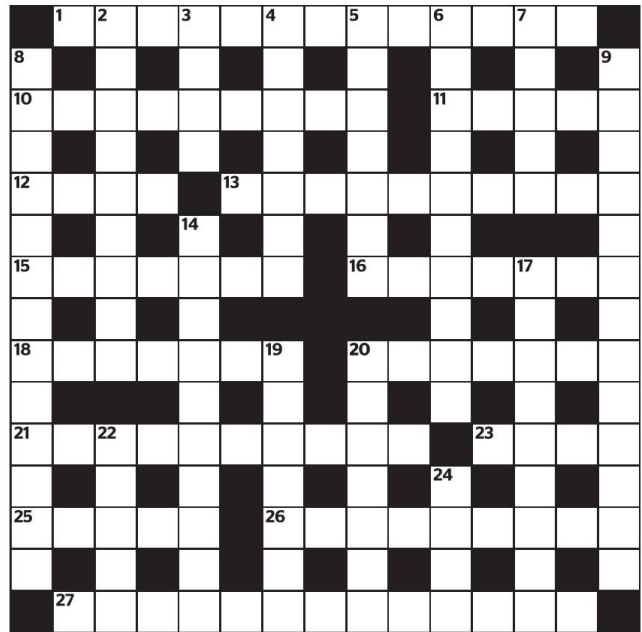
CRYPTIC by DA 20,540

ACROSS

- 1 Ritual as a mate, when spun!? (4,9)
- 10 Realistic photo capturing two uses of fabric? (9)
- 11 Square lid slips off rubbish (5)
- 12 NAB coming closer to leaving 11-across, perhaps? (4)
- 13 Fronts here when we met at empty room in lot (7,3)
- 15 School subject to scruples once cheat steps down? (7)
- 16 Cutter's new place blocking choice in sail (7)
- 18 Adorable mid-range lichen (7)
- 20 Old swordsman's sash unlocked and partly loaded? (7)
- 21 Detainee's island - strangely tropic - ignores Opposition leader in writing (10)
- 23 Composer's \$1000 single? Pass (4)
- 25 Get clean couple, lacking second signs of affection (5)
- 26 PM at Number 10 for a reset? (9)
- 27 Build up career, gaining further attraction in America (5,8)

DOWN

- 2 Studying Pilbara industry after cutback (9)
- 3 Fancy that Mandy being cloned? (2,2)
- 4 Suspect the pure heaven, vaguely (2,5)
- 5 Historian understood Bush losing marginals? (7)
- 6 Stunning a safari beast outright bitten by small snakes (10)
- 7 Possibly head over heels in love, wearing dress hoisted (5)
- 8 Pains struck down guards, hurt by a fighting force (7,6)
- 9 Plane, torn into pieces, calls for sudden decisions (4,9)
- 14 White bullock reared, piercing panicky Angolans (5-5)
- 17 Socialite sees bohemian part of India, declared to be under pressure (9)
- 19 3-down - oddly scarier pirate (7)
- 20 Detours loveless lad, suppressing pity nonetheless (7)
- 22 Explosive reporting partly shown up (5)
- 24 Short walk to where a 23-across works? (4)



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Yesterday's cryptic 20,539

