

## February 2026 Slot 3 by P-brane

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**Across**

- 1 Does a runner on stumps (5)
- 4 Spooner's amateur gardener finds it's physically demanding work (4,5)
- 9 Often tiresome lying doggo in one piece (6)
- 10 Locate horribly lost mule (5,3)
- 12 Lost during extended journey (4,9)
- 14 Regretted sounding insolent (4)
- 15 Romeo? A criminal boss cocky? (10)
- 18 Roughly impale hero with emu-bush (10)
- 20 Reversing spaces prepared for Italian diners? (4)
- 23 Boomer and his mob dispense rough justice here (8,5)
- 26 Can be worn out, or be idle (8)
- 27 Minor weakness with freedom of information: to table without thanks (6)
- 28 Direct network to dangerous Sydney-sider's snare (6-3)
- 29 Solvent in a true blue intoxicating drink? (5)

- 2 Ardent in the past, the present and the future... perhaps (7)
- 3 Reputedly doctor's script for rug rat's movements finally coming to the fore (6)
- 5 Scrum basics essentially a dance (5)
- 6 More cowardly to call out debtor (8)
- 7 Tied up King (not Edward) (7)
- 8 Laws alternate Fat Cats ultimately dismiss (4)
- 11 Like the sky, indigo initially swamped by redness (6)
- 13 British accuracy about vibrancy of music (10)
- 16 Flat chat when volume finally adjusted to be played softly (6)
- 17 Disadvantage of being a losing team (8)
- 19 Large honker smashed with antler (7)
- 21 Tradie's first priority, timber (7)
- 22 Verbally confront a court about function (6)
- 24 Permit for unopened rendered fat (5)
- 25 Slave to the sound of a beach break (4)

**Down**

- 1 Green bread unfortunately found in fair weather watering hole (4,6)