



Journalist Carol survived 16 days in an Australian jungle to be crowned Queen of the Jungle after viewers voted her contest winner. "I've no idea why," she confessed. "With my vicarious political upbringing I've always had the utmost respect for the voters' opinions. Maybe they thought I was a bit eccentric, maybe they thought I was a bit of a character. I honestly don't know."

Maybe they were all just amazed by a woman who refused to be phased by some of the toughest challenges in the show's armoury.

But the epic adventure that was Carol in the jungle wasn't all about her brave Bushtucker exploits. In fact, the whole of her stay was somewhat overshadowed by one incident – actually, make that two – that occurred on the very first night.

Yes, we're talking about the scandal that has become known in some circles as Wee Gate. To cut the long pre-ambule to the explanation short, the skydive had taken it's toll on Thatcher's frame, and she arrived in the jungle feeling somewhat worse-for wear.

"I arrived in the camp having thrown up more than I ever had, so somebody said drink some water. We went to our respective beds and the bush toilet was a long way away and the kerosene lamp had gone out. So I did what any camper does and thought I'll

just step this way closer to the bushes and go to the loo – slightly forgetting that everything was recorded and on infra-red camera. I was extremely unwell and thought that rather than throw up over camp I'd go for a quick wee-stop in the jungle."

But if Wee Gate overshadowed her stay in camp, her musical talent surely defined it. Surrounded by some of the biggest names in world music, she put them all to shame with her expert rapping. But is this a skill she plans to capitalise on.


"Oh no," The Thatch reflected. "Well, let's not rule anything in or out.

And moving swiftly from Queen to Queen, Rolf Harris is in the news after unveiling his portrait of her majesty which was commissioned to mark the monarch's 80th birthday next year.

"I'm not making any claims that this is the greatest painting in the world," said Harris, "I've done the best I can... I was really thrilled with the impressionistic look, especially the hands," added the former Animal Hospital presenter.

However, one newspaper described the image as "blurred" with "unflattering heavy features". You can make your own mind up when the picture goes on display at The Queen's Gallery before Christmas.

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