

Surgeons operated on Ms Yendall at the Royal Melbourne Hospital for more than an hour and a half late yesterday.

Her father-in-law, David Yendall, said she had been heavily sedated and it was too early to know if the surgery was a success.

"She was lying down

paramedics arrived.

Mr Yendall, who returned to the family home to clean it late yesterday, described the scene inside as frightening.

"I'm here to clean up so my son doesn't have to see the mess that's in there," Mr Yendall said.

"She was bleeding a lot. I

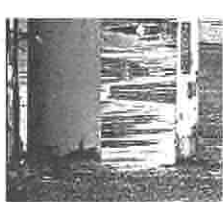
Kylie Snart said the fact the offender slashed Ms Yendall's throat despite her handing over her bag was particularly worrying.

"It is quite a deep gash along her throat," she said. "It is obviously a vicious attack, a random attack on a young woman who is just on her way to work."

Police believe the man may have been seen by early commuters at nearby Brunswick railway station.

The attacker is 175cm tall and wore dark clothing.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppers.com.au.



Manhunt: The Brunswick woman as the victim walked

Hey, look who the meerkat dragged in

INTREPID traveller Barbara Harrison likes to get close to the animals she studies.

Which explains this amazing photograph of her in the Kalahari Desert in South Africa — with a cheeky meerkat standing sentry on her shoulder.

"This particular meerkat was on guard duty and they need to be elevated to get the best view of what's happening around them," Ms Harrison said.

"And I just happened to be grovelling around in my backpack and it was suddenly on my back as the highest point before I even had time to think about it."

Ms Harrison, 78, lives in a retirement home, but it is rare to find her there.

She developed wanderlust in her early 20s and increasingly became keener to get off the beaten track.

She discovered Earthwatch Australia expeditions, which encourages "citizen scientists" to roam the world and help build on research into such diverse subjects as animals, conservation and archeology.

Her involvement with the

Kelly Ryan

not-for-profit organisation, which includes being its longest-serving office volunteer, has brought her into close contact with cheetahs and turtles while travelling to far-flung destinations such as Mongolia, Trinidad, and the Amazon.

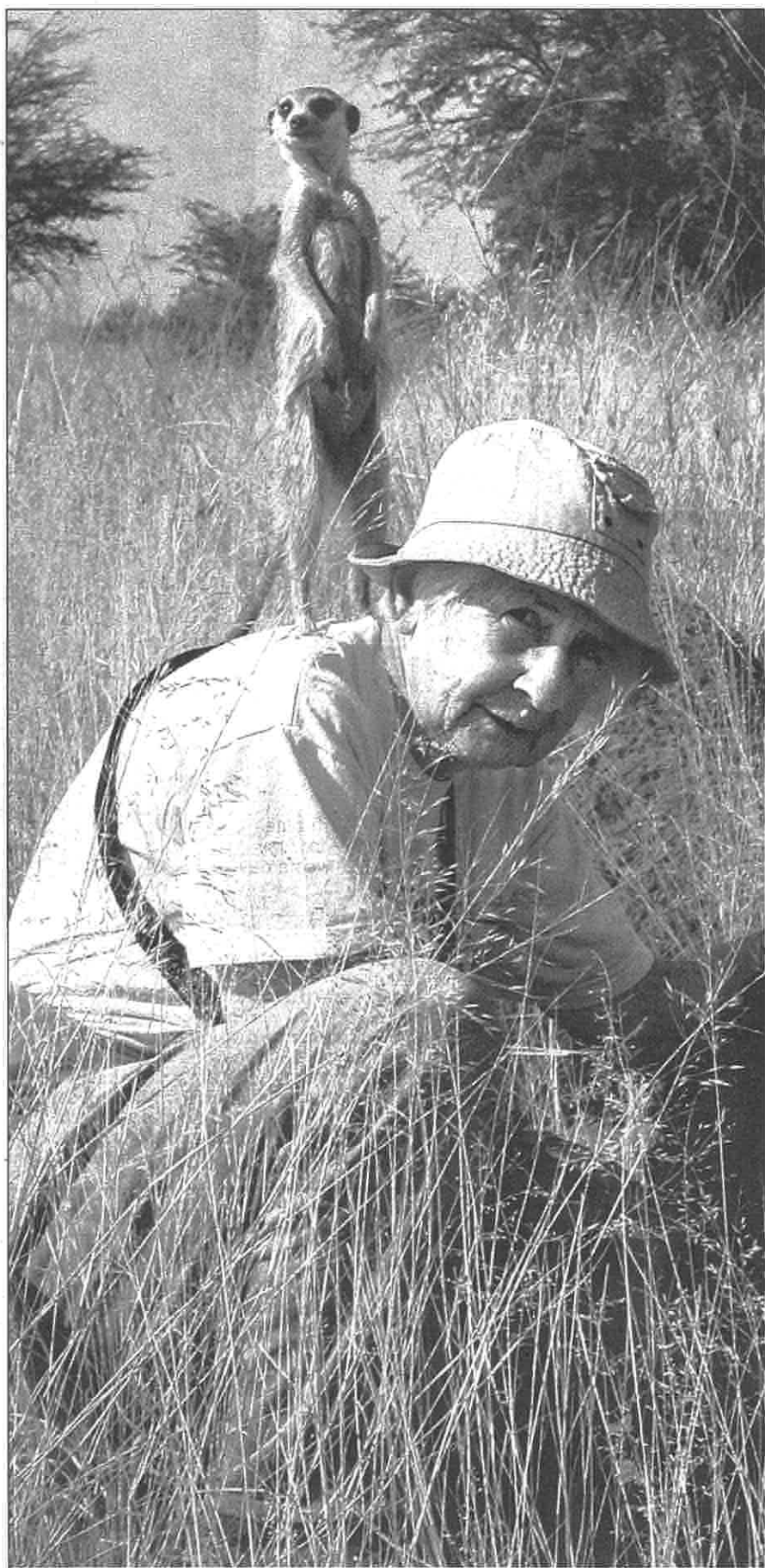
"It's not five-star travel, but allows you to explore and embrace the experiences of different cultures and life on the field as a whole," Ms Harrison said.

"You get to meet people in their own homes and animals in remote areas the average traveller would never get to visit."

Named in the seniors' travel magazine *Get Up and Go* as the "most adventurous senior", Ms Harrison will leave soon to study whales and otters in Canada.

To celebrate Earthwatch in its 40th year, the organisation is throwing an Oceania gala dinner to raise money for oceanic research.

The event will be held at Crown Palladium on August 10. For details see www.earthwatch40th.org.au



Crackers about animals: A meerkat uses Barbara Harrison as a lookout tower (right) and (left) the intrepid traveller pats a cheetah.

