

Dr Margaret Bale

Chief Veterinarian Officer, Australian Wild Camel Corporation, Queensland

Dr Margaret Bale BVSc has been working as a clinician for 23 years. For the past 15 years, Margaret had been in predominantly dairy cattle practice at the *University of Queensland* Dayboro Clinic, which included all aspects of herd health, reproduction and surgery of production animals, including lecturing in camelid medicine. In this clinic she also saw a large number of camelids and in particular dromedary patients and this soon became her special focus. Two years ago she was approached by the *Australian Wild Camel Corporation* to work as the Chief Veterinarian Officer to help establish a large scale commercial camel dairy. She is committed to assisting all camel producers develop the industry in Australia.

Abstract

A HEALTHY ANIMAL: THE BEATING HEART OF THE INDUSTRY

Dr Margaret Bale

Camels are the ultimate production animal. They produce milk, fibre and meat and are currently the most under-utilised resource in animal production in Australia. At the core of any animal production industry is the primary health of the animal, as an individual and as a herd. The Australian camel industry is unique. We often utilise feral camels and ask of them domestication and high production. This is entirely possible if we put the health of the animal first. I aim to provide the tools needed for practical on farm Veterinary assessment, disease risk management and herd health strategies for the modern Australian camel dairy farmer. With a hands on approach we will examine topics from gestating cow health and genetic selection; calf health; parasite control; husbandry; biosecurity and of course mastitis, with all information tailored to the Australian producer. My aim as a Veterinarian on the front line of this industry, on farm, every day, is to empower the producer with the information needed to bring the camel dairy industry into the mainstream.