



Ridley Melbourne Strategic Plan 2014-2018



Under God the Vision, commenced in 2008, has delivered to date:

- Over 50% growth in full time equivalent student numbers from 90 in 2008 to 142 in 2013.
- Consolidation of the property and the development of a foundation to help fund future growth.
- Six learning communities with:
 - An Anglican Institute program that provides thorough preparation for Anglican ministry in Melbourne and beyond;
 - More than 20 people in Global Mission;
 - Specialist training and formation for leadership and ministry in a variety of non-church contexts;
 - A one year online degree program with a national reach;
 - A certificate program featuring easy online access, excellent teachers and engaging video production;
 - A Marketplace Institute helping workers bridge the Sunday-Monday divide and encouraging pastors to support workers.
- A Centenary Appeal that will contribute approximately \$1m to the Ridley Foundation, \$500,000 to the Vision implementation and \$500,000 to a building fund.

We can also point to better mentoring of students, dynamic chapel services, improved pedagogy, new subjects, better administrative support, a strong library with an expanding eBook collection, and a faculty who have a growing international academic profile.



It is my pleasure to share with you Ridley's Strategic Plan for the next five years. At its heart the plan is driven by a theological vision which concerns what we will do with our doctrine in the context of where God has placed us.

In our day the church has lost its central place in society and the vast majority of people are ignorant of the Bible and know very little of Jesus Christ. Consequently, our theology must turn its face towards the world and the imperative of mission. A confident engagement that commends the gospel and makes sense within a post-Christian worldview must set our direction.

As well as conserving sound doctrine, we also need to cultivate a theology that asks how the grace of God in Jesus Christ teaches us to live in a time of increasing secularism, materialism and atheism. This is the fundamental challenge faced by Ridley and our graduates.

In 2008 the Ridley Board set an ambitious Strategic Vision to position Ridley to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

The Ridley Vision is ambitious, and its implementation has not been without its challenges. We are thankful to God for his blessing of our ministry, to the faculty and non-academic staff for their hard work and to our supporters for their prayer and financial gifts that have made this progress to date possible.

Along with the board, faculty and non-academic staff I look forward to the next phase of our ministry as we seek to promote a theology that will equip God's people for God's mission in a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world.

Rev Dr Brian Rosner
Principal



Mission

Equipping men and women for God's mission in a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world.

Vision

To be a leading centre of mission and ministry training delivered in supportive communities through flexible study modes.

Theological Framework

Ridley Melbourne is committed to academically rigorous theological training in the Anglican, Reformed and Evangelical tradition that engages seriously with contemporary culture.

Values

1. **Learning** – high academic standards in a spirit of honest inquiry, under the authority of Scripture, and engaging with the history of Christian thought and our contemporary world.
2. **Formation** – the intentional development of Christ-like character, prayerful dependence on God, and the integration of life, doctrine and ministry practice.
3. **Community** – learning in relationships of respect, support and integrity, welcoming people from varied backgrounds and churches, and establishing networks for partnership in ministry.
4. **Mission & Ministry** – promoting a global vision for the gospel of Jesus Christ, a heart to serve the church, cross-cultural skills, and perseverance, confidence and humility in handling God's word.

Objectives

1. **Equip** students for contemporary ministry challenges (what we deliver)
2. **Deliver** training and formation in ways that respond to our changing environment (how we deliver)
3. **Extend** our reach across Melbourne, throughout Australia and beyond (where we deliver)
4. **Engage** internationally as a thought leader (who we influence)





New Strategies

Objective 1: What We Deliver

Equip students for contemporary mission and ministry challenges

- >> Provide leading Anglican formation programs with 80 new ordinands who are recognised for their mission heart and capacity to work in a variety of contexts
- >> Offer a new model of context-based training of church planters in conjunction with a range of church planting partners
- >> Introduce specialist programs for workplace chaplains and marketplace Christians

Objective 2: How We Deliver

Adapt the delivery of training and formation to a changing environment

- >> To produce world-class online theological education and formation with thriving online communities of e-learners around the globe
- >> Develop faculty who are not only experts in the content they teach but also experts in the way students engage and learn.

Objective 3: Where We Deliver

Extend our reach across Melbourne, throughout Australia and beyond

- >> Expansion of the MA Gold professional development program with 75 people enrolled.
- >> Fully developed Ridley Certificate with 20 subjects and 750 unit enrolments each year.
- >> A new multi-mode delivery model for extending BTh/MDiv to underserved parts of Australia and beyond.

Objective 4: Who We Influence

Engage internationally as a thought leader

- >> Build platforms and partnerships for disseminating research and writing to an international audience.
- >> Establish a new Centre of Excellence offering thought leadership in Apologetics
- >> Develop a higher degree by research community with an expanded scholarship program to triple the number of students we currently have.



Ridley Melbourne Program Structure

