# LiDA Meeting

## 5 June 2014

The second meeting of LiDA for 2014 took place on 5 June. The meeting was addressed by two speakers who provided very different perspectives on our key topic of innovation. As always, it was interesting to observe the areas where the subject matters coincided.

**Ken Dovey** discussed the action research project that is being undertaken by one of his PhD students within a major internet service corporation. The organisation is constantly challenged by increasing volumes, capacity planning, collating of vast amounts of data, and search engine filtering and optimisation. The research project is concerned with understanding the dynamics that promote and enable innovation within the teams that are charged with addressing these issues. The insights gained from the research have been very well received by the organisation, and have enabled team practices and structures to be adapted to enhance creativity and outcomes.

Our guest speaker was **Alan Edenborough**, Project Director and Specialist Consultant at Sydney Heritage Fleet. Alan spoke with great eloquence and passion about the 30 year project, of which he was the initiator and leader, to restore the iron-hulled sailing barque James Craig. The journey started with Alan chancing upon a rusting hulk abandoned in Recherche Bay, Tasmania in the early 1970s. He recounted the story of how the ship was patched, refloated and towed to Hobart, and then ultimately taken to Sydney for the major restoration works. It was an account that included many brilliant ideas, some great good fortune, major setbacks, chance encounters, and driven throughout by massive determination. Above all, perhaps, Alan demonstrated that using valuable contacts and building relationships is one of the keys to achieving the (apparently) impossible. It was a genuinely inspirational narrative, and supported with excellent visual aids.