Letter to the Editor

The death of buddy diving?

David Cooper raises concerns in his letter regarding the potential implications for recreational diving of the Watson case.1 Before we draw any conclusions, however, one must be aware that this is a complex case, the plea and verdict were subject to negotiation and the outcome possibly perverse. Gabe Watson was not tried before a jury for his wife’s death, because he pleaded guilty to manslaughter, where death is an unintended consequence. Thus the evidence was never tested in court. He was convicted under a rare Queensland criminal code statute, detailed by Dr Cooper, and enacted in 1899 prior to Australian federation and not used in a criminal trial until this case.2 This statute is not in the criminal code in any other Australian jurisdiction.

Watson had some incriminating circumstantial evidence against him for murder, but the Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions felt that a guilty verdict, (murder beyond reasonable doubt), was very unlikely so the charge was reduced to manslaughter.3 Then Watson returned from the USA voluntarily for the trial on this lesser charge. Watson’s father stated pragmatically: “faced with the prospect of a long trial against the state with unlimited resources, an unknown outcome in a place far from our home, we elected the ‘guilty plea’ option so as to have our son returned to us at the earliest possible date.” One of the judges at the sentence appeal was surprised that Watson had pleaded guilty.3

Watson’s diving behaviour should have been better, but Dr Michael Bennett stated in expert evidence that his three-year lack of diving made him “relatively inexperienced.” Watson now faces a possible murder trial in Alabama, as he was deported following sentencing. This case remains controversial, and few conclusions can be drawn from it. “Rare cases make bad law”.4

References

4 Do cases make bad law? Available from: <lawreview.uchicago.edu/issues/archive/v73/summer/schauer>.

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Key words
Diving deaths, legal and insurance, Letters (to the Editor)

The poetry doctor

Amazing air

When on scuba I can’t respire without an apparatus.
To regulate air from a tank to ambience; to inflate us.

Refrain: Amazing air inflates my lungs and lets me breathe – inspiring.
Without this air I would soon die, so aptly termed expiring.

It works so well I can descend to the deep and back.
Unless the air supply does end, a catastrophic lack.
I gasp and gulp and gag in fright, however hard I suck.
My buddy is nowhere in sight. I curse my rotten luck.
Panic starts to take its grip. I blame my poor dive plan. 
As consciousness begins to slip, its reasons I do scan.

My regulator’s sprung a leak? I’ve dived too long, too deep?
My air content I did not seek, my vigilance asleep?
My training fires despite my doubts. I drop my belt then fin.
As I rise I breathe out, avoiding CAGE within.

I break the waves and what a treat to breathe in nature’s air.
Nothing ever could taste so sweet, a life-sustaining fare.
I’m so relieved I’ve thwarted death I say a thankful prayer.
Appreciating my every breath, never again to run out of air.

John Parker

Christine Cridge and DDRC

The Diving Diseases Research Centre (DDRC), Plymouth, has recently appointed Dr Cridge as its new Director, incorporating the roles of Medical Director and Chief Executive.

A general practitioner with the Postgraduate Diploma of Medical Science in diving and hyperbaric medicine from The University of Auckland, Dr Cridge has worked in both the HMS Haslar, Gosport, and DDRC hyperbaric units in the past. She returns from a recent appointment as Medical Director with Hyperbaric Health in Perth, Western Australia.
Obituary

Professor Christian J Lambertsen

May 1917 – February 2011

Dr Christian Lambertsen, MD, DSc (Hon), died at his home in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania on 11 February 2011.

Chris received his Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University in 1938 and his MD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1943. During his medical school period, he invented the initial self-contained closed-circuit oxygen rebreathing apparatus used by the US military for neutral buoyancy underwater swimming and diving, the Lambertsen Amphibious Respiratory Unit (LARU). As a student, he aided the early Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in establishing the first cadre of US military operational combat swimmers. Dr Lambertsen became a US Army medical officer on graduation from medical school in early 1943, and immediately joined the OSS Maritime Unit on active duty through its period of function in World War II. He joined the University of Pennsylvania Medical Faculty in 1946, and became Professor of Pharmacology in 1952. Whilst a faculty member, he combined diving research with further development of underwater rebreathing equipment for the Army and Navy. In 1967 he served as Founding President of the Undersea Medical Society (now Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society). Dr. Lambertsen is recognised by the Naval Special Warfare community as “The father of US combat swimming.” His hand has touched every aspect of military and commercial diving. Dr Lambertsen’s active contributions to diving began during WWII and became even more progressive in the post-war period through the evolution of the US Navy Deep Submergence and Naval Special Warfare developmental programme.

Please send condolences to: Lambertsen Family, c/o Chris Lambertsen, 3500 West Chester Pike, Suite 129, Newtown Square, PA 19073-4101.

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Alf Brubakk:
I met Chris Lambertsen a number of times and even worked with him on problems related to decompression. Even as a student, he was involved in developing diving procedures and he was instrumental in developing the rebreather that was used by the Navy Seals. I once saw a letter from the Secretary of War, telling the Dean of the University not to give Chris a problem if he spent too much time away from his studies, he was essential to the war effort! I can hardly believe he is dead. Once, about 10 years ago, when I commented on the problem of finding successors in our field, he said to me that he did not see the problem, as he was still going strong! He also allowed me to go through his personal archive; a lot of his unpublished work on isobaric counter-diffusion is still very relevant. For my generation, Lambertsen was like a beacon. He has influenced a whole generation of scientists; we have an obligation to continue the good work.

David Elliott:
The end of an historic era and a career that defies any summary … what a multifaceted contribution Chris leaves. Dick Vann gave a presentation in London some years back on CJL, which included an account of when he came to the UK in the dark days of World War II to make an operational assessment of the secret British ‘underwater canoe’, and how he then returned to the USA having had to memorise the classified instruction manual.3 Creating his Institute at the University of Pennsylvania and the Underwater Physiology Symposia series were achievements later crowned by his foundation of the Undersea Medical Society. Frank Butler has reviewed some of Chris’s early work.3

Noemi Bitterman:
It is hard to believe that Chris Lambertsen will not be with us. We know that time will come for everyone, but somehow it seemed Chris was above the rules, and he would stay alive for ever. Indeed, only a few weeks ago, I sent him the traditional New Year card for 2011. I have plenty of great memories, letters with his unreadable handwriting and pictures, but it will take time to go through it all. The symposium that Steve Thom and I co-chaired, “Oxygen 2002 – Honoring the life time work of Christian J Lambertsen”, in La Jolla was a great two-day event presenting the multidisciplinary aspects of oxygen and saluting “the father of oxygen”.4 We will never forget him.

In 2009 Dr Lambertsen transferred his extensive literature and research collection to the UHMS Charles W Shilling Library. The UHMS and the Rubicon Foundation (<http://archive.rubicon-foundation.org>) have been organising this before it is processed into the Shilling Library by the Duke University Medical Center Library and Archives staff.

References


Key words

Obituary, general interest, rebreathers/semi-closed circuit
SPUMS notices and news

South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society Diploma of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine

Requirements for candidates (updated October 2008)

In order for the Diploma of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine to be awarded by the Society, the candidate must comply with the following conditions:

1. The candidate must be medically qualified, and be a current financial member of the Society.
2. The candidate must supply evidence of satisfactory completion of an examined two-week full-time course in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine at an approved facility. The list of approved facilities providing two-week courses may be found on the SPUMS website.
3. The candidate must have completed the equivalent (as determined by the Education Officer) of at least six months’ full-time clinical training in an approved Hyperbaric Medicine Unit.
4. The candidate must submit a written proposal for research in a relevant area of underwater or hyperbaric medicine, in a standard format, for approval before commencing their research project.
5. The candidate must produce, to the satisfaction of the Academic Board, a written report on the approved research project, in the form of a scientific paper suitable for publication. Accompanying this written report should be a request to be considered for the SPUMS Diploma and supporting documentation for 1–4 above.
6. In the absence of documentation otherwise, it will be assumed that the paper is submitted for publication in *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine*. As such, the structure of the paper needs to broadly comply with the 'Instructions to Authors' – full version, published in *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine* 2010; 40(2):110-2.
7. The paper may be submitted to journals other than *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine*; however, even if published in another journal, the completed paper must be submitted to the Education Officer for assessment as a diploma paper. If the paper has been accepted for publication or published in another journal, then evidence of this should be provided.
8. The diploma paper will be assessed, and changes may be requested, before it is regarded to be of the standard required for award of the Diploma. Once completed to the reviewers’ satisfaction, papers not already submitted to, or accepted by other journals should be forwarded to the Editor of *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine* for consideration. At this point the Diploma will be awarded, provided all other requirements are satisfied. Diploma projects submitted to *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine* for consideration of publication will be subject to the Journal’s own peer review process.

Additional information – prospective approval of projects is required

The candidate must contact the Education Officer in writing (e-mail is acceptable) to advise of their intended candidacy, and to discuss the proposed subject matter of their research. A written research proposal must be submitted before commencing the research project.

All research reports must clearly test a hypothesis. Original basic or clinical research is acceptable. Case series reports may be acceptable if thoroughly documented, subject to quantitative analysis, and the subject is extensively researched and discussed in detail. Reports of a single case are insufficient. Review articles may be acceptable if the world literature is thoroughly analysed and discussed, and the subject has not recently been similarly reviewed. Previously published material will not be considered.

It is expected that all research will be conducted in accordance with the joint NHMRC/AVCC statement and guidelines on research practice (available at <http://www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/research/general/nhmrcavc.htm>) or the equivalent requirement of the country in which the research is conducted. All research involving humans or animals must be accompanied by documented evidence of approval by an appropriate research ethics committee. It is expected that the research project and the written report will be primarily the work of the candidate, and that the candidate is the first author, where there are more than one.

The SPUMS Diploma will not be awarded until all requirements are completed. The individual components do not necessarily need to be completed in the order outlined above. However, it is mandatory that the research project is approved prior to commencing research.

The Academic Board reserves the right to modify any of these requirements from time to time. As of October 2008, the SPUMS Academic Board consists of:

Associate Professor David Smart, Education Officer
Associate Professor Simon Mitchell
Associate Professor (retired) Mike Davis.

All enquiries and applications should be sent to the Education Officer:
Associate Professor David Smart
GPO Box 463, Hobart, Tasmania 7001
E-mail: <david.smart@dhhs.tas.gov.au>

Key words
Qualifications, underwater medicine, hyperbaric oxygen, research, medical society
Eligible candidates are invited to present for the examination for the Certificate in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.

Eligibility criteria are:

1. Fellowship of a Specialist College in Australia or New Zealand. This includes all specialties, and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

2. Completion of training courses in Diving Medicine and in Hyperbaric Medicine of at least four weeks’ total duration. For example, one of:
   a. ANZHMG course at Prince of Wales Hospital Sydney, and Royal Adelaide Hospital or HMAS Penguin diving medical officers course OR
   b. Auckland University Diploma in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine.

3. EITHER:
   a. Completion of the Diploma of the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society, including six months’ full-time equivalent experience in a hyperbaric unit and successful completion of a thesis or research project approved by the Assessor, SPUMS
   b. and Completion of a further 12 months’ full-time equivalent clinical experience in a hospital-based hyperbaric unit which is approved for training in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine by the ANZCA.

4. Completion of a workbook documenting the details of clinical exposure attained during the training period.

5. Candidates who do not hold an Australian or New Zealand specialist qualification in Anaesthesia, Intensive Care or Emergency Medicine are required to demonstrate airway skills competency as specified by ANZCA in the document “Airway skills requirement for training in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine”.

All details are available on the ANZCA website at: <www.anzca.edu.au/edutraining/DHM/index.htm>

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EUBS 37th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2011
24–27 August 2011
Gdansk, Poland

Hosts: The National Centre for Hyperbaric Medicine, Gdynia
Venue: The Medical University of Gdansk

Honorary Patron:
Lech Wałęsa,
President of the Republic of Poland (1990-1995) and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1983

Zdzislaw Sicko, Chairman of the Organising Committee, E-mail: <zsicko@ucmmit.gdynia.pl>
Jacek Kot, General Secretary of the Organising Committee, E-mail: <jkot@gumed.edu.pl>

Scientific Committee: Alessandro Marroni (IT) (Chairman), Mike Bennett (AU), Alf Brubakk (NO),
Maide Cimsit (TR), Jordi Desola (ES), Peter Geronpré (BE), Yoram Grossman (IL), Michal Hajek (CZ), Erik Jansen
(DK), Jacek Kot (PL), Folke Lind (SE), Daniel Mathieu (FR), Peter Radermacher (DE), Maria Wujtewicz (PL)

Main topics:
Diving physiology and medicine, non-dysbaric disorders
Research in deep diving and dysbaric diving disorders
Basic research and clinical hyperbaric medicine
Hyperbaric safety, technology and organisation

Satellite meetings:
24 August: ECHM Workshop on “HBO in Emergency Medicine”
24 August: Workshop on “Validation of decompression computers”
(these are parallel meetings)
28 August: Divers Alert Network “Divers’ day”

Working group meetings during conference:
- EUBS Executive Committee
- ECHM Executive Board
- ECHM Board of Representatives
- EDTC Medical Committee
- IDAN Board of Directors
- DAN Board of Directors
- PHYPODE Consortium Board

Conference office: (registration, accommodation, travel, payment)
Phone: +48 46 856 30 13
Fax: +48 46 856 30 13
Mobile: +48 604 203 244
E-mail: <office@eubs2011.org>

Visit our website:
<www.EUBS2011.org>
and register today
International Congress on Hyperbaric Medicine

The 17th International Congress on Hyperbaric Medicine was held in Cape Town, South Africa, 16–19 March 2011. In these notices we print the minutes of the ICHM Governors’ Meeting held during the conference.

For all enquiries regarding the ICHM, please contact the Secretary, A/Prof Michael Bennett: <m.bennett@unsw.edu.au>

Minutes of Governors’ Meeting, International Congress on Hyperbaric Medicine, held in Cape Town, SA, 18 March 2011

Meeting opened: 1304 h

Present: Mike Bennett, Nina Subbotina, Thanasawat Chaiyakul, Gang Wang, Folke Lind, Lorenz Lampl, Frans Cronje, Albert van Den Brink, Andy Branfield, Peter Bennett, Pieter Bothma, John Feldmeier, Dirk Jan Bakker, Jacek Kot, Jordi Desola, Joseph Ting

Apologies: Alessandro Marroni, Zdzislaw Sicko, Gao Chunjin, Dr Pisarella

1. Office bearers:
   President: Dr Pisarella (represented at this meeting by Nina Subbotina)
   Immediate Past President: Frans Cronje
   Executive Director: Alessandro Marroni
   Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Bennett

Members at large: John Feldmeier (term 2), Zdzislaw Sicko (term 2), Jordi Desola (term 1), Folke Lind (term 2), Pieter Bothma (term 1), Peter Germonpré (term 1), Lorenz Lampl (term 1).

2. Frans Cronje opened the meeting and introduced members to each other. Dirk Bakker took the place of Alessandro Marroni as Executive Director for this meeting.

3. 2014 Congress: Representations were made for Buenos Aires and Orlando, Florida. John Feldmeier nominated and MB seconded the motion to accept the proposal from Buenos Aires, Argentina – date in 2014 to be advised. Accepted unanimously. Details will be posted as soon as possible on the website.

4. As a result of this decision, Nina Subbotina accepted the role of President on behalf of the absent Dr Pisarella.

5. 2017 Congress: An informal discussion raised the possibility of a combined meeting with the UHMS (John Feldmeier) in the USA, a meeting alone or in combination with the EUBS in Amsterdam (Dirk Bakker) or a meeting in Stockholm (Folke Lind).

6. Notes from the Secretary: Mike Bennett outlined the developments on several fronts since our last meeting:
   6.1 Finances: the ICHM has no money. The previous Secretary/Treasurer (Fred Cramer) had been financing the newsletter and website personally.
   6.2 New members: nil to report.
   6.3 Web site: still operational and updated with current meeting dates.
   6.4 Newsletter: MB had discontinued the newsletter as this had been produced without external finance. He has negotiated a new arrangement with the journal Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine to have one or two pages of ICHM news and business twice yearly. Members of the ICHM are encouraged to join either the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society or the European Undersea and Baromedical Society in order to receive this journal.

7. Thanks: The meeting formally thanked Frans Cronje and his team for the wonderful meeting. A vote of thanks was also offered for the outgoing committee members Jochen Freier, Professor Kawashima and Professor Gao Chunjin.

Meeting closed: 1400 h

Norwegian University of Science and Technology Diving Medicine Course

Dates: 17–23 September 2011
Venue: Trondheim / Stokkøya, Norway

The course is designed to partially fulfil the requirements for qualifying as a Diving Medical Physician (Level IIa), and emphasises hands-on experience in handling diving accidents and organisation of diving expeditions. The course will follow the training standard of DMAC/EDTC. The following requirements must be fulfilled before being accepted to the course:

• MD
• Successful completion of an internet e-learning course “Fundamentals of diving medicine” or completion of an accredited course “Medical examiner of divers”
• Diving certificate according to Euro-Norm 14153-1/ISO 24801-1 from any recognised agency

Applications must be received by 01 August 2011
For further information contact: <http://baromedicine.eu/divemed>
Royal Australian Navy Medical Officers’ Underwater Medicine Course 2011

**Dates:** 07–17 November 2011  
**Venue:** HMAS PENGUIN, Sydney

The MOUM course seeks to provide the medical practitioner with an understanding of the range of potential medical problems faced by divers. Considerable emphasis is placed on the contra-indications to diving and the diving medical, together with the pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of the more common diving-related illnesses. The course includes scenario-based simulation focusing on management of diving emergencies and workshops covering the key components of the diving medical.

**Cost:** TBC (Approx AUD2,100 including accommodation at HMAS PENGUIN or AUD800 without accommodation)

**For information and application forms contact:**  
Rajeev Karekar, for Officer in Charge,  
Submarine and Underwater Medicine Unit  
HMAS PENGUIN  
Middle Head Rd, Mosman  
NSW 2088, Australia  
**Phone:** +61-(0)2-9647 5572  
**Fax:** +61-(0)2-9960 4435  
**E-mail:** <Rajeev.Karekar@defence.gov.au> with copy to: <Peter.Smith33@defence.gov.au>

Hyperbaric Technicians and Nurses Association Annual Scientific Meeting 2011

**Dates:** 14–17 September 2011  
**Venue:** Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach, Sydney, Australia  
**Hosts:** Department of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine, Prince of Wales Hospital

**Guest Speakers:**  
- Tim Smith, Deputy Director, Heritage Branch, NSW Dept of Planning  
- Paul Sheffield, Chair, UHMS Education Committee  
- Harriet Hopf, Professor and Director of resident research training, University of Utah  
- Claude Wreford-Brown, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle  
- A/Prof David Smart, Medical Director, Hobart Hyperbaric Medicine Unit

**Workshop:** 14 Sep 2011  
Discussion/consensus on deep therapeutic tables

**Further details available soon at:**  

The Australia and New Zealand Hyperbaric Medicine Group Introductory Course in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine

**Dates:** 20 February–02 March 2012  
**Venue:** Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney, Australia

Course content includes:  
- History of hyperbaric oxygen  
- Physics and physiology of compression  
- Pressure-related injuries (barotraumas, decompression illness)  
- Accepted indications for hyperbaric oxygen therapy  
- Wound assessment, including transcutaneous oximetry  
- Gas toxicities, marine envenomation, drowning  
- Practical sessions, including assessment of fitness to dive  
- Visit to HMAS Penguin  
- Visit to the NSW Water Police

This course is approved as a CPD Learning Project by ANZCA – Cat 2, Level 2 – 2 credits per hour (Approval No. 1191)

**Contact for information:**  
Ms Gabrielle Janik, Course Administrator  
**Phone:** +61-(0)2-9382-3880  
**Fax:** +61-(0)2-9382-3882  
**E-mail:** <Gabrielle.Janik@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au>

Royal Adelaide Hospital

Medical Officers’ Course 2011  
Units 1 and 2: 28 November–09 December

Diver Medical Technicians’ Full Course  
Units 1, 2 and 3: 07–25 November

DMT Refresher Course  
Units 1 and 2: 29 August–09 September

Accommodation at a reasonable price is available for a limited number of registrants. Costs available on enquiry.

**Contact for information:**  
Lorna Mirabelli, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Hyperbaric Medicine Unit  
Royal Adelaide Hospital, North Terrace  
Adelaide, SA 5000  
Australia  
**Phone:** +61-(0)8-8222-5116  
**Fax:** +61-(0)8-8232-4207  
**E-mail:** <Lorna.mirabelli@health.sa.gov.au>
EUBS 38th Annual Scientific Meeting 2012
Preliminary announcement

Dates: 12–15 September 2012
Venue: Sava Centar, Belgrade, Serbia

ECHM Consensus Conference on Hyperbaric Medicine
11–12 September

Enquiries to: Mariana Sedlar
E-mail: <chm@scnet.rs>

Scott Haldane Foundation

The basic course (Part I plus Part II) complies fully with the current EDTC/ECHM curricula, and the different advanced courses offer modules to achieve Level IIa status according to the EDTC/ECHM guidelines.

17 September: Refresher course Fitness to Dive (AMC, Amsterdam, NL)
07–08 October: 17th Advanced course, Dive safety (NL)
12–19 Nov (departure 10 Nov): Basic course, diving medicine Part I (Palau)
19–26 Nov (departure 17 Nov): 19th Advanced course (Palau)
26 Nov–03 Dec (departure 24 Nov): 19th Advanced course (Palau)

For further information: <www.scotthalndane.nl>

Oxygen and Infection: European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine (ECHM)
Conference Proceedings

Free video lectures from the May 2009 Stockholm meeting are available for your iPhone or computer <www.hyperbaricoxygen.se>

5th Karolinska Postgraduate Course in Clinical Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
14 lectures on fundamental concepts and front-line knowledge in the clinical use of HBO.

ECHM Conference ‘Oxygen and Infection’
22 lectures and three panel discussions are available on topics such as necrotizing fasciitis and the diabetic foot.

For further information contact:
Folke Lind, MD PhD,
E-mail: <folke.lind@karolinska.se>
Website: Editor <www.hyperbaricoxygen.se>

Inter-university Diploma in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine, France

For further information go to:
<http://www.medsubhyp.org> or <http://medecine.univ-lille2.fr/format/diu/hyperbar.htm>

German Society for Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine (GTUeM)

An overview of basic and refresher courses in diving and hyperbaric medicine, accredited by the German Society for Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine (GTUeM) according to EDTC/ECHM curricula, can be found on the website: <http://www.gtuem.org/212/Kurse_/Termine/Kurse.html>

British Hyperbaric Association
Annual Scientific Meeting 2011

Dates: 20–22 October 2011
Venue: QinetiQ Haslar, Haslar Marine Technology Park, Gosport

Hosts: QinetiQ Hyperbaric Medicine Unit, St Richard’s Hospital, Chichester

Full information will be on the BHA website in the near future <http://www.hyperbaric.org.uk>

Contact for further information:
Dr Mark Glover
E-mail: <maglover1@qinetiq.com>
Phone: +44-(0)1243-776621

Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society
45th Annual Scientific Meeting
Preliminary announcement

Dates: 20–23 June 2012
Venue: JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort, Phoenix AZ
Contact: www.uhms.org

DIVING HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA, SE ASIA
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Website: <www.classicdiver.org>