



Denise Smithson sifted through archives, files and World War I diary entries for her research project, *Japan's Forgotten Link to the Anzac Legend*.

"They've been very supportive from the start."

Denise's next stop after Canberra was Hobart, where the *Ibuki* had berthed on its way to New Zealand, then on to the Auckland war museum and Wellington, where the New Zealand troops had embarked on what for many was their final journey.

She later went to Singapore, Tokyo and London, poring over files and sifting through archives, delighted by the support she received at each destination.

She was also very grateful, she said, for the soldiers who ignored censorship laws and kept war diaries, many of which mentioned the *Ibuki*.

It's obvious that some of these diaries have had a lasting effect on her. "I got a bit carried away reading them," she said.

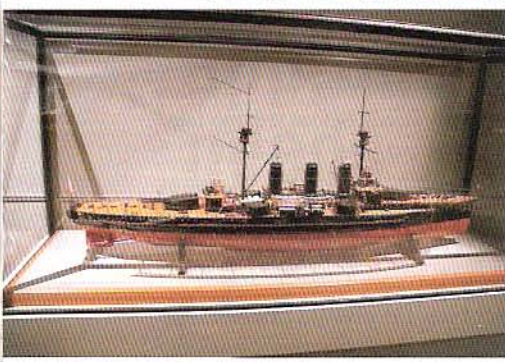
One of them, written by Major Geoff McCrae, was particularly poignant. Major McCrae was twice wounded at Gallipoli while serving with 7 Battalion, then in 1916, at the age of 26, he was killed in action at the battle of Fromelles in France.

It's this personal side of the *Ibuki* story that Denise hopes to bring to life once her research project has been launched and she can concentrate on writing a book.

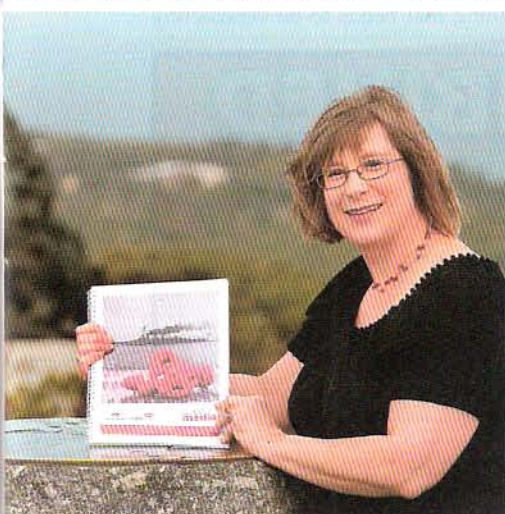
The launch of her report is at 10am on April 24 at the Dog Rock Convention Centre.

If you would like to attend, call Smithson Media on 0419 923 071.

H.M.A.T. "HORORATA" A. 20.
14. 11. 1914
Denise Smithson writes:
We left Albany at 6am on Sunday 1st inst. the fleet consisting of 36 transports escorted by H.M.S. "Munster" "Melbourne" "Sydney" it was a wonderful sight. Ships stretching from horizon to horizon. We rounded the Levee at 2am on Monday morning and picked up the *Medic* and *Corvus* under escort of Japanese battleships "Ibuki" which had come out to join us from Fremantle. On Sunday 8th the transports left.



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Japan's Forgotten Link to the ANZAC Legend

Smithson media

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April 24 2019

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media

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