



PALUMA AND THE MT SPEC AREA

A black and white photograph of a deep, forested valley. The foreground shows a rocky, sparsely vegetated slope on the left and a large, light-colored rock outcrop on the right. The valley floor is covered in dense forest, and the distant hills are shrouded in a light mist or haze.





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The **Catholic Church** was the WAAAF women's accommodation huts for the No 58 Radar Station. By the end of April 1944, the unit had 21 female radar operators living in the village.

The "igloo" was one of the Radar Stations. The building became the Catholic Church and later a private residence.

8 Lennox Crescent Sisters Of Mercy Retreat was formerly the **Cavilcade Guesthouse**.

Bert and Grace Cavill built the guesthouse in the late 1930s and named it *Cavilcade*. It was a bus and fuel stop as well as a guesthouse providing meals and accommodation. Many servicemen and women stayed at the guesthouse during the war.



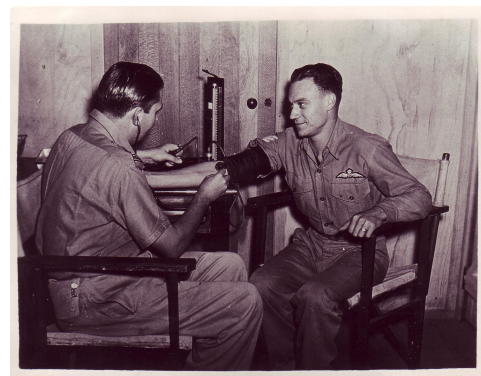
Environmental Education Centre's Sensory Trail Near this entrance was the site of the "Winged Gates" (RAAF wings) that marked the entrance to the No. 6 Medical Convalescent Unit.



The **Tennis Court And Dam** were some of the amenities built during the war for the units stationed at Paluma. If you are lucky you may see a platypus in the weir.



52 Mt Spec-Ewan Road The house with a stone wall across the front was the Medical Office where patients reported for regular check-ups.





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The **Ivy Cottage** was known as **Hotel Australia**. It was used as a mess for the Rehabilitation Unit. Many houses between **Ivy Cottage** and the western end of the village were seconded for the Rehabilitation Unit.



Acknowledgements:

- World War II tours brochure City of Thuringowa
- Linda Venn, *Paluma the First Eighty Years 1870s-1950s*, Thuringowa City Council, 2002

Out at the Paluma Dam. The road to the dam was first enlarged from a pack-track during the war to access timber for the war effort. The road to Hidden Valley runs past the turnoff to *Taravale Station*. Along the Taravale Road was the Civil Construction Corps timber camp. The workers from this camp provided timber for the war effort.

