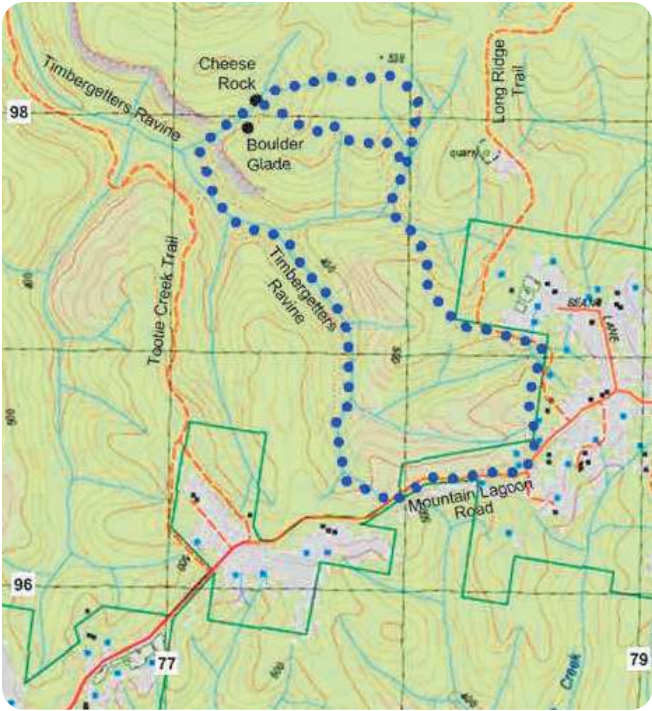
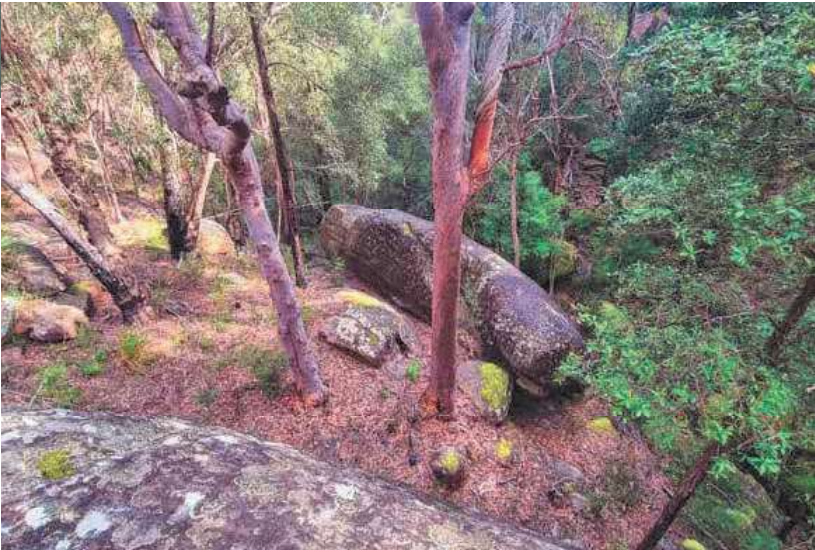


Walk 2.1 Timbergetters Ravine and Boulder Glade



OPPOSITE PAGE: Boulder Glade.
Photo: Yuri Bolotin.



Maps, etc.	Department of Lands topographic map Mountain Lagoon 9031-35, 1:25,000, second edition. GPS setting WGS 84.
Walk description and route	Park at GR 776 963 on Mountain Lagoon Road and descend into Timbergetters Ravine. Walk down this rainforest-clad watercourse up to a tributary at GR 771 979. Ascend through the cliff line to the beautiful Boulder Glade, then continue up towards spot height 538 m. Descend into a gully to the southeast, walk through its canyon-like section, then climb out on the other side and walk back to Mountain Lagoon Road. About 6 km.
Gear issues	Two litres of water, GPS, PLB, appropriate head- and footwear, electrolytes, maps, compass, first aid kit, tape (leader only). Change of gear for afterwards.
Comments	Partly exploratory. Scrambling and exposure.
Date walked	17 June 2022 and 14 July 2021. Some of the features and route variations from the initial walk have been incorporated into these Track Notes. Important Note: Part of this walk is through private property. Access permission must be sought and approved for each visit.
WALK 2.1 – TIMBERGETTERS RAVINE AND BOULDER GLADE 143	



THE WEATHER

A beautiful, mostly sunny day with no wind. Clear skies in the morning and 50% cloud cover in the afternoon. Temperature range 10 to 15 degrees C.

TRACK NOTES

Note: *Time references in the text relate to Grid References in the table at the end of these Track Notes.*

Cars were parked on Mountain Lagoon Road a few hundred metres east of Tootie Creek Trail, and the walk was under way by 0903. Our group descended sharply into a

gully running north west towards the spot where it joins with another creek coming from the west, forming Timbergetters Ravine.¹⁰⁸ Along the way, a medium-sized Angophora with a giant burl protruding past its trunk was photographed. The burl, located only two metres off the ground, is about a metre across.

We reached the junction of two creeks at 0919. Here, the ground was covered in thick Ferns that required a bit of effort to push through. To make our lives a bit easier, I chose to stay close to the running creek,

which showed multiple pools of water, some quite deep.

Ten minutes later, the party stopped on the edge of a 10-metre waterfall, wondering what to do next. The cliffs looked big on the left-hand side, so we crossed to the opposite bank and almost immediately discovered an old timber trail, followed it for a short distance, then gingerly made our way via a few slippery ledges to the bottom of the ravine below the waterfall.

That brought us deep into a shady, ferny, moist rainforest. In the middle of winter, the sun could penetrate the thick tree canopy of this narrow gorge in only a few places, but the air temperature still felt comfortable. Once the tight area downstream from the waterfall, jammed with fallen timber, was behind us, our journey became much more rapid and enjoyable.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Timbergetters Ravine headwaters. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.

BELOW: Coachwoods and Ferns in Timbergetters Ravine. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.

At 0947, straight after passing by a small overhang, we noted the first big Turpentine tree stump, about one metre across, that had prompted me to name this watercourse Timbergetters Ravine. After marvelling at this relic of the days gone by, the party descended to the very bottom of the gorge, passing a junction with a tributary coming from the east. This section of the valley was very pretty and featured multiple pools of clear running water. Tree Ferns, Blechnum Ferns, Sticherus Ferns and bright green Mosses were found in abundance here. Some rock hopping added to the joy of it all. We noted a small overhang facing towards the east



¹⁰⁸ Timbergetters Ravine is a large tributary of Tootie Creek, starting at Mountain Lagoon Road (GR 779 964) and joining Tootie Creek at GR 763 986 (Mountain Lagoon topographic map). Tootie Creek Trail runs alongside its northern part. Timbergetters Ravine was named by Yuri Bolotin on the walk of 14 July 2021 due to its location in the area where timber extraction was a major activity in the past, and because of a large quantity of old cut stumps encountered by the party whilst walking along the creek banks.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Jesse McKinnes, Bill Beck and Heni van der Hecht scrambling down within the ravine. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.

Bill trying to prop up the giant Turpentine tree. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.

A very big Turpentine tree stump. Bill Beck's glove is on top for size comparison. Photo: Bill Beck.



with level floors, but it was probably too wet for any habitation.

At 1001, a giant tree stump, about 1.5 metres across, was photographed. I climbed about 10 metres to inspect a sunny cave above, but it was very shallow and had no flat floor surface. When I returned, the party headed further down the ravine, scrambling over a small field of mossy boulders, to emerge in front of one of the biggest trees I had ever seen, at least 2.5 metres wide at the base and more than 60

metres tall. We had a quick morning tea here from 1014 till 1021, and also took the opportunity to take photos. Everyone wanted to touch the soft, rough brown bark of this giant, and some even offered their embraces. The tree is a very old Turpentine, *Syncarpia glomulifera*, probably between 600 and 1,000 years of age; it must have been deemed too big by the timbergetters to take out.

Moving on, we passed the next eastern tributary junction, crossing it via large boulders. Close by was a large stump,





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Old timber trail. Cut stumps can be seen on both sides of it. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.

The party inspecting the giant Turpentine. Photo: Bill Beck.

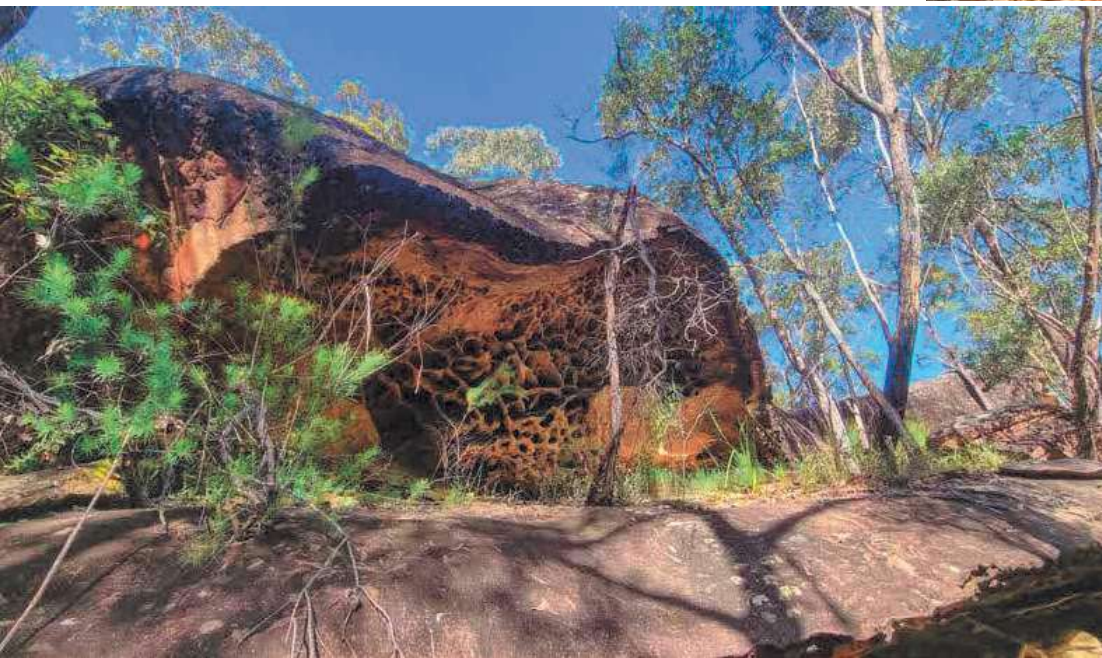
A cut log in Timbergetters Ravine. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.



and one more a few hundred metres further downstream. This was a very pleasant part of the ravine. Less than 100 metres before another tributary coming from the east, we were slowed down in an area where dozens of big trees had been felled by a recent weather event. Most of them still had green leaves. Somewhere underneath all this mess we could just distinguish an old timber trail. After a fair amount of clambering, at 1113, the party paused at a clear section of the trail,

which ran on the left-hand side of the ravine about 10 metres up from the creek bed. The timbergetters had once again left their traces here in the form of several old stumps.

From here, the old road descended towards the next tributary junction, then crossed to the opposite side and gradually climbed above the creek, where our progress was hindered by tree debris, dense tall grass, and Ferns. We noted several more massive cut



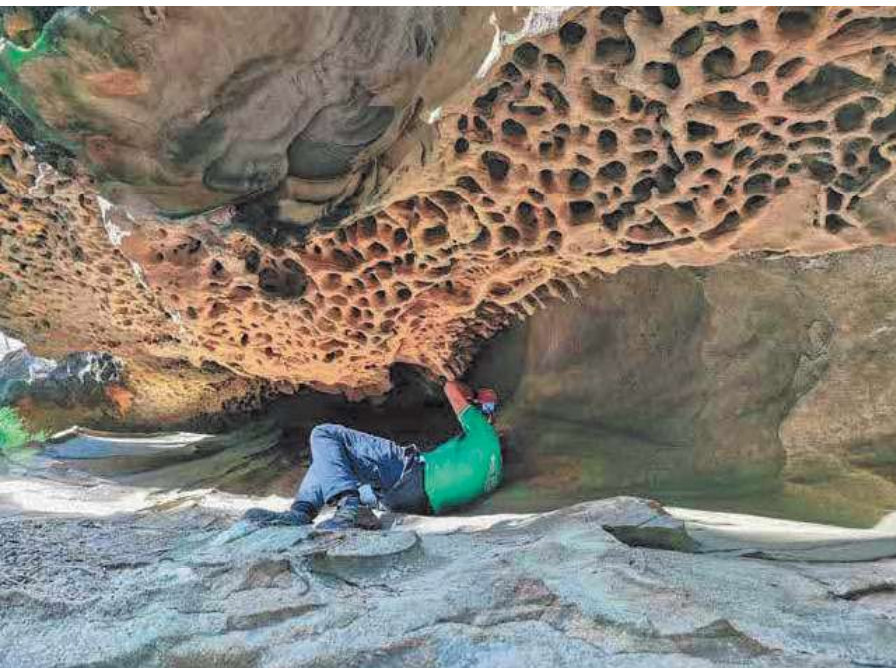
stumps along the way. By 1126, we made it to a spot where the trail turned back down towards Timbergetters Ravine, probably heading to the junction with the Tootie Creek Trail, located just over 100 metres to the west. I thought it was now time to say goodbye to this track, as our intended route was instead to climb towards the cliffs to the east and find a way into the next tributary gully.

Five minutes later, the group reached a ledge underneath our first notable geological sight of the day: a very good-looking overhang of beige sandstone, with a large area of interlacing plates and honeycomb formations. Several more deeply eroded cliffs followed as the party carefully negotiated the narrow and irregular ledge.

After we rounded a corner, entering the target gully, I decided to avoid large messy boulders and deep holes at the bottom and instead scramble

ABOVE: A sunlit overhang in Boulder Glade. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.

OPPOSITE PAGE: A tafoni overhang in Boulder Glade. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.



up to another ledge above. That soon brought us to the constriction area where the creek rises through high cliffs via a series of rocky terraces. The very last part required a few nimble manoeuvres on tight, slippery ledges. It would be much trickier in wet weather, but most of us did not find it too difficult today. A few members of the group explored other ways of climbing through this area, avoiding the treacherous ledges, but that required some extra time.

Clearing the constriction, we emerged in a beautiful open green valley graced by tall trees and large brown boulders scattered amongst them. Many of these rocks featured intricately eroded underbellies with holes, tunnels and panels of tafoni formations.¹⁰⁹ We first climbed the sunlit western side of the valley to inspect the undersides of two huge boulders (the second one more like an overhang) full of stunning honeycomb weatherings. Fifty metres back to the north was a large expanse

¹⁰⁹ We first came to this special area during the walk of 14/07/21, when I called it Boulder Glade.



OPPOSITE PAGE:
Yuri Bolotin
taking photos
of dinosaur
bone-like tafoni
structures.
Photo: Bill Beck.

LEFT: Dinosaur
bone-like tafoni
detail. Photo:
Yidan Saladine.

of flat rock bathed in the winter sun – a great spot for lunch from 1211 till 1229.

Our exploration of Boulder Glade continued after lunch. Immediately below the area where we had been sitting was another large overhang with spectacular tafoni. Some of the cells were enclosed on three sides only, creating the effect of looking at the bone structures of a giant prehistoric dinosaur.

Coming down to the creek bed, we stopped to marvel at another special boulder, shaped like an acoustic shell, with a window in the middle. On the other side of the valley was an overhang with a twisting tunnel hole forming part of its roof. Tight, dark passages created by other large rocks around it ran in

different directions. About 150 metres further on, at the northern extent of Boulder Glade, we came to a huge round Moss-covered lump of stone, about 15 metres long, 10 metres across and three metres high, neatly split into two equal parts. It looks exactly like a giant block of cheese, so I called it Cheese Rock. The temptation to climb it was impossible to resist, so I did not even try. Standing on top, one can straddle both sides of the cheese block. At 1245, next to Cheese Rock, we saw another curious boulder, with its edge shaped like an enormous six metre long knife blade pointing towards the sky (for cutting the cheese?).

Upstream from Cheese Rock, the valley soon became quite ordinary, so, after crossing a still well-flowing creek,



OPPOSITE PAGE: Jesse McKinnes under a rock resembling a knife blade. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.
 ABOVE: Yidan Saladine next to the same rock that looks like a Dinosaur from this angle. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.

we started to exit up a tributary creek towards the east, at 1252. The broad and open valley allowed for easy progress, but it was unremarkable save for a few beautiful tall Angophoras, especially when compared with the amazing Boulder Glade.

At 1311, at the top of the climb, near spot height 538 metres, the party split in two to have a look at two almost parallel gullies coming down to the south. My group took the one on the east, from which, sadly, there was nothing to report except abundant Lawyer Vines hidden in a sea of Ferns. When we reunited with the second team, they told us of their similar experience. It was agreed that the dry open area at the end of the second gully, where we met at 1337, was actually the first pleasant spot of both side-investigations.

As is often the case in this country, the 'boring' gully we were now descending abruptly metamorphosed into a deep, dark, rainforest-clad ravine, which certainly gave us plenty of excitement as we tried to find a way of getting to the bottom through high cliffs and steep, wet slippery ledges. With some effort, we all made it down on the right-hand side of the gorge, by 1347.¹¹⁰

Here, once again, a moist, dark, cool rainforest awaited us. A high cliff wall on the opposite side of the gorge looked particularly imposing, so we



continued below it until it ran out. From here, the party headed down to the bottom of the larger creek coming from the east, which was reached by 1408. A few old stumps were again noted along the way.

Climbing out of the gully in a southerly direction, we passed a small north-facing overhang with some flat floors but no signs of habitation.

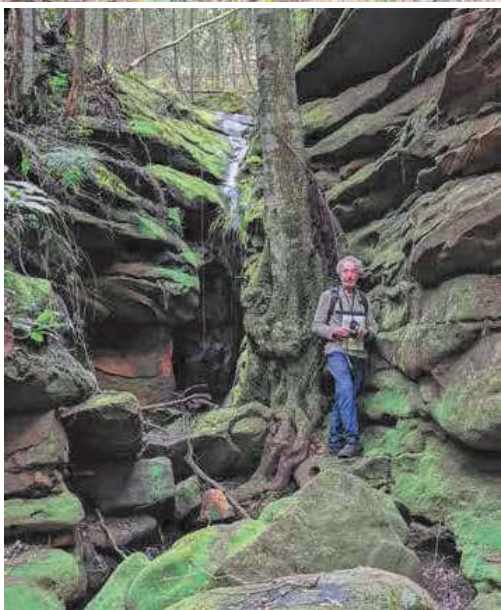
110. During our trip on 14/07/21, we headed directly down to the rainforest gorge section, avoiding the two rather unpleasant gullies. This would be my preference next time.



ABOVE: Yuri Bolotin at the Cheese Rock. Photo: Bill Beck.

RIGHT: Yuri Bolotin in the canyon-like constriction. Photo: Bill Beck.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Angophora trunk detail. Photo: Yuri Bolotin.



At 1426, a few minutes after clearing a small cliff line, we stopped for a drink at a tall imposing Angophora, which had two parts of its trunk forming a donut-like hole.

The top of the ridge was reached four minutes later. By 1435, we made it to Long Ridge Trail. Twenty minutes later, the group was back at the parked vehicles.

Trip statistics: total distance 6.5 km; total ascent 340 m.



TIMES, LOCATIONS AND GRID REFERENCES

Time	Location	Grid Reference	Elevation
0903	Cars parked and started walking	GR 7793 9638	525 m
0919	Creek junction	GR 7772 9650	475 m
0929	Waterfall	GR 7770 9666	440 m
0947	Big tree stump	GR 7773 9679	430 m
1001	Giant tree stump	GR 7774 9698	405 m
1014–1021	Giant Turpentine and morning tea	GR 7775 9709	385 m
1113	Old timber trail	GR 7734 9754	330 m
1126	Left the trail	GR 7715 9772	340 m
1131	Pretty overhang	GR 7716 9775	360 m
1211–1229	Exploring Boulder Glade and lunch	GR 7724 9793	395 m
1245	Cheese Rock	GR 7733 9806	420 m
1252	Exited up a gully	GR 7739 9811	430 m
1311	Party splits in two, exploring two gullies	GR 7787 9819	538 m
1337	Party reunited	GR 7799 9785	450 m
1347	In canyon-like rainforest gorge	GR 7794 9770	425 m
1408	Larger creek junction	GR 7795 9758	405 m
1426	Angophora with a donut-shaped hole	GR 7806 9739	495 m
1430	Top of the ridge	GR 7810 9724	522 m
1435	At Long Ridge Trail	GR 7832 9713	525 m
1455	Back at cars	GR 7793 9638	525 m