

Nomination Case Study

Ethel Turner

Author (1870–1958)

Ethel Turner was recognised with one of the first Blue Plaques in NSW which was installed at Woodlands, the house in which she wrote her iconic novel, *Seven Little Australians*.

Ethel Turner, Aged 20, 1890. Image Courtesy of National Library of Australia, Philippa Poole Photograph Collection, and Peter Poole.

Nomination Case Study: Ethel Turner

About the recipient

Ethel Turner is a celebrated Australian author whose classic children's book *Seven Little Australians* portrays Australian family life at the turn of a new century. It is the only Australian children's book to have remained continuously in print since its publication in 1894 and in 2019 the manuscript was placed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.



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Why this nomination was successful

The nominator proposed Woodlands (originally called Inglewood) as the location for Turner's Blue Plaque, noting that Turner wrote *Seven Little Australians* while living in the house. The domestic and natural setting of Woodlands in the Sydney suburb of Killara provided inspiration for Turner. While Turner's literary works are recognised in notable library collections, this Blue Plaque connects the author to a place of direct significance to her writing and life.

The nomination included written support from the property owners and news articles about the owners and the Woodlands property, documenting their enthusiasm for celebrating Ethel Turner's contribution to Australian literature.

The proposed position for the plaque was on a suitable location at the front of the property, which is visible and accessible from a public footpath.

The Ethel Turner Blue Plaque was unveiled on 14 October 2022.

For more information about Ethel Turner read her digital story on the Blue Plaques website:
<https://blueplaques.nsw.gov.au/blue-plaques/locations/ethel-turner>.