



**Uncommon Australians:  
The vision of Gordon and Marilyn Darling  
A National Portrait Gallery exhibition  
The Temporary Exhibitions Gallery**

**Friday 4 March - Sunday 1 May**

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In the late 1980s, on the day that they decided to spend the rest of their lives together, Gordon and Marilyn Darling agreed to pursue a project: the creation of a place that would testify, through portraits, to the ingenuity, intelligence, inquisitiveness and perseverance of individuals who had made a lasting difference to Australia.

In the early 1990s they expressed their vision with an exhibition of portraits they called *Uncommon Australians*. Over years, their combination of idealism, practical support and persuasive lobbying for an Australian National Portrait Gallery played a crucial part in bringing the institution into being. Now, the Gallery's collection resides in a superb building, its spaces abounding with portraits the Darlings and subsequent benefactors have funded. *Uncommon Australians: The vision of Gordon and Marilyn Darling* reveals the Gallery's Founding Patrons as uncommon Australians of the kind they set out to celebrate from the very beginning.

**NATIONAL  
PORTRAIT  
GALLERY**



This exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.

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**Florence Fuller**

*Portrait of Deborah Vernon Hackett* c 1905

oil on canvas

Collection: National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

Purchased with funds provided by Marilyn Darling 2005