

# Our Competition

## "WHAT IS YOUR SECRET DESIRE?"

SO many secret desires have come in to me, tumbling out of my mail every day, that I marvel at so many secret desires being in existence. First prize to "Lifuka," Motueka—her desire could be translated into so many other things—possibly pencils for me, instead of tools, and needles and cotton for you, mother. Second prize to "Gran," Meeanee, and highly commended "London Lass," Wellington (who seems to have more than her fair share of secret desires!) and "Ajax," Oxford.

Secret desires? Well, they may have been secret once, but they're secret no more now.

### First Prize

WHAT is my secret desire? Well, it may sound trivial to you, but, how I would like to possess a complete set of really good garden tools! I am a garden enthusiast, and often snatch a few minutes to work in the garden. Then this sort of thing happens. I particularly want to hoe something and there's no hoe to be found. Either they're all in use, or else they've been left where last used, about three padlocks away. When I do find one, it is usually too heavy or blunt—just the old one no one else wants. It's the same with all the tools. By the time I've located the one I want, both the precious minutes I had to spare and my enthusiasm have flown. So putting aside all the other things I'd like to

mention as secret desires, I'll say "Tools." (Of course, I'd need a shed, plus padlock, to retain possession of them, so we'll include them as well!)—**Lifuka, Motueka.**

### Second Prize

WHEN I was a child my mother took me, along with my sisters, almost every Sunday afternoon to visit my Grandma, and we had tea with her. To us it was the greatest treat—lovely hot buttered toast and fruit tart with clotted cream. Always I had a secret desire that one day I would take my children to tea with their grandma. Well, after years I did marry, but alas, I was at the other end of New Zealand, and could not take my children to visit my home, and my mother died soon after. But still the secret desire remains, and I look forward to the day when my grandchildren will come to tea with me, and I'll give them hot toast and fruit tart and clotted cream—all the things that will help them to remember tea with grandma, and perhaps they too will foster a secret desire like mine.—**Gran, Meeanee.**

### Highly Commended

TO probe one's mind for the revealing of a secret desire is like making the acquaintance of oneself entirely afresh. And an interesting experience it has proved! For I discovered not one but a flock of secret desires that have been my lifelong companions. I think the oldest and perhaps the dearest wish was for curly hair. I am far from discontented with my own coppery-brown locks, but, oh, how I longed for springy curls, such as my mother has. I have always associated places intimately with people—book-people as well as others. Consequently, I longed to visit Japan, for the sake of "The Lady of the Decoration." Her life in the kindergarten was as real as my own. I dreamed, too, of walking up to Luther Burbank in his Californian garden, and asking him to show me his plant-miracles. And of shaking hands and taking tea with that kindly old gentleman, Lord Frederick



You're mistaken! It's not our good neighbour "Lifuka" who has realised her secret desire! It's Fay Holden the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer actress, out in her garden.

Hamilton. But surely, the strongest longing of all is to tread the streets of London, to pick primroses in Devon lanes, to see the Kentish cherry orchards in spring. That longing is always with me, and it sweetens life, whether it will be realised or not. Certainly it provides one of the essentials of happiness—"Something to work for, something to hope for, something to love."—**London Lass, Wellington.**

I HAVE travelled a little, and I have a dear little home and a wee girl whom I adore, so that when I have so many of the things which women hold

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