



Te Waha-o-Rerekohu, New Zealand's oldest and largest pōhutukawa tree. It's around 600 years old, and stands proudly in the grounds of the local school. It is fondly known as the New Zealand native Christmas tree. The crimson-colored flower tree can be found in the grounds of Te Waha O Rerekohu Area School, close to the beachfront of Te Araroa Township. The tree is a sight to behold! It stands more than 21.2 metres tall and measures 40 metres at its widest point. Early Maori also used the flowering of pōhutukawa as a seasonal sign that kina (sea urchin) were fat and ready to eat! In summer, pōhutukawa trees produce crimson or bright red blooms which decorate the trees during the Christmas season, hence it is fondly known as the New Zealand native Christmas tree.

Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro Buesgens spent many mornings enjoying toast and coffee at Wampach's in downtown Shakopee, she loved playing bingo and hearing the chimes and bells of a winning slot machine she was playing.

She was an amazing cook where friends and family often benefited from recipes, she got from one of the beloved cooking shows she watched, especially her homemade egg rolls and strawberry cheesecake. She would also pass time with her interests in knitting, ceramics, occasional part-time jobs, and daily walks down 10th Avenue in Shakopee.



MRS SANDY BUESGENS FAMILY



Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro Buesgens, age 82, of Shakopee, MN, passed away on Sunday, August 13, 2023.

Celebration of Life for Sandy was held at the McNearney-Schmidt Funeral and Cremation. Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro Buesgens was Interred at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery in Belle Plaine.



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**Crete Sandy
Esmeralda Ngatoro
Buesgens
1941-2023**

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2023



Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro Buesgens, age 82, of Shakopee, MN, passed away on Sunday, August 13, 2023.

Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro was born on January 26, 1941 in Te' Ararora, New Zealand. She was a Māori. Her mother was Te 'Hinganoa Pera Ngatoro.

New Zealand, which Māori called Aotearoa, is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It consists of two main landmasses—the North Island (Te Ika-a-Māui) and the South Island (Te Waipounamu)—and more than 700 smaller islands.

As she grew up, Sandy attended Te' Wana o Rerekohu area schools.

In the East Cape of New Zealand, Sandy could visit Gisborne, the first city in the world to see the sunrise. Or she could slide down the Rere Rockslide or walk along New Zealand's longest pier. Or she could visit the small town of Te Ararora, in the place where she was born.

After graduation high school. Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro relocated to Wellington, New Zealand to pursue her career in nursing. In Wellington, Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro met James Buesgens, who grew up in Belle Plaine. They married at St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church in Wellington, New Zealand on October 27, 1961.

James Elroy Buesgens, who was born on July 25, 1957, was son of Wilbert Frank Buesgens (1928–1961) and Frances Fanny Lenora Schindler Buesgens Kopp (1931–2009).



In 1938, the Franciscan Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Angels bought and remodeled the Poor House (which had been St. Gertrude's Academy in Shakopee) and called it the St. Francis Hospital and Home for the Aged. St Francis Hospital was opened in 1953. This was the hospital where Sandy worked at. In 1996, this hospital was torn down, and is now a parking lot. In 1996, a new, comprehensive and high quality regional medical center was established. It was a new campus for St. Francis Regional Medical Center. The new campus is at 1455 St. Francis Avenue in Shakopee.

In 1962, Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro Buesgens and James Buesgens moved to Shakopee. They continue to grow their family. They had four children: Shona (married Bob Pulk), Monica Jimece (married James Siegle), Alana Loni (married Albert Trende) and Shane (married Bonnie Luce.)

James died of a car accident. Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro Buesgens and her children lived on 5th Avenue and Spencer Street in Shakopee.

Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro Buesgens worked at St. Francis hospital for over 40 years.

St. Francis Regional Medical Center has a rich tradition of providing quality healthcare for the people living in Minnesota's Scott, Carver and western Dakota counties. Emerging in the middle of the Great Depression, when the nearest hospital was 30 miles away in Minneapolis, Shakopee was once an isolated rural city with a population of 2,400, according to <https://www.stfrancis-shakopee.com/about-us/history/>.

To serve the community, a group of Franciscan Sisters sought to open a hospital in Shakopee and, with community support, they purchased the Scott County poorhouse and soon founded St. Francis Hospital and Home in 1938. St. Francis served 128 patients from the surrounding area in its first year.

By the late 1940s, the original hospital could no longer support the expanding healthcare needs of the post-World War II baby boom. In May of 1953, a new 50-bed hospital replaced the former poorhouse to accommodate the area's population growth. That first

St. Francis provided care for more than 1,300 patients from surrounding communities.

In 1982, St. Francis Hospital was renamed St. Francis Regional Medical Center and, in 1987, the Franciscans transferred sponsorship and ownership of the hospital to the Benedictine Sisters at St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth and the Benedictine Health System. By October 1993, a new alliance was formed between St. Francis, the Benedictine Health System and HealthSpan (a predecessor organization of Allina Health.)

Growing healthcare needs and exceptional community support enabled the new St. Francis to build and open its current facility in July 1996.

St. Francis is currently jointly-owned by Allina Health, HealthPartners Park Nicollet and Essentia Health. Its Catholic identity is sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth. This unique structure combines the caring and compassion of a community hospital with the modern medical technology, specialties and services found in large metropolitan areas. St. Francis provides a full range of inpatient, outpatient and emergency care services on a medical campus with more than 30 other clinics and more than 400 providers noted <https://www.stfrancis-shakopee.com/about-us/history/>.

After working at St. Francis for over 40 years, Crete Sandy Esmeralda Ngatoro Buesgens retired in 2012.

Her greatest joys in life were spending time with her 9 Grand and 10 Great-Grandchildren. Her love for them showed through her smile as she lit up every time, she saw them.