



Background information about the Carson family

Chris Carson: Father; 42 years old; stockbroker; works in his city office 3 days a week and 2 days from home; he suffers from asthma

Lana Carson: Mother; 37 years old; works full-time in a local vet clinic

Jeni Carson: Daughter; 13 years old; student at local high school; loves sport, particularly horse-riding and water-skiing; wants to join the CFA Junior Volunteer Development Program to be with her friends

Graeme Carson: Son; 8 years old; school student at local primary school; loves reading and computer gaming; a nervous and shy boy

Aroha Tiwiata: Grandmother (Lana's mother); 75 years old; lives with the family in a downstairs granny flat; has painful arthritis in her knees and is not very mobile; currently studying a computer course online

Family circumstances:

- Several years ago, the family moved from the inner suburbs of Melbourne to live on a few acres in the hills on the urban fringe.
- They moved when Chris Carson started cutting back his working hours to reduce stress and travel time.
- There are two small grass paddocks to the south and east of the house.
- There is a large lake located at the bottom of the ridge, two kilometres to the north-east of the house.
- Their large double-storey brick house faces north-south and is cut into the ridge rising on the west side of the house.
- Much of the upstairs of the house is glass, which makes the most of the views down to the lake and the lush surrounding bush.
- A driveway winds 400 metres up the hill to the front gate through large gums and fern understory. The driveway meets a two-lane bitumen road that connects to the Melbourne freeway, seven kilometres away.
- The family has a horse, two cats and a dog.
- Old growth gums and bush butt up to the property on the north boundary, 100 metres from the house.

Bushfire Education



- There is a stable and a small dam near the house, which is less than half full.
- The family owns two cars and a ute, which has an LPG tank.
- Some of the water for the garden and outbuildings is supplied from the dam via a petrol-driven portable pump.
- The Carsons have recently installed a roof sprinkler system that is fed with water pumped from the dam.

