



FIRM FRIENDS: Michanne Furstenberg and Jackson Condon with principal Brian Bayker, Hayato Amaike, Masayoshi Nagashima (Japanese school principal) and Atsuko Yamamoto.

Visitors reach out to flood victims

JAPANESE students visiting a Bray Park school showed compassion knows no boundaries by donating more than \$3500 to local flood victims.

Staff and students from Minokamo High School gave the donation along with gifts to sister school Genesis Christian College on the first day of a week-long exchange.

Genesis liaison officer Learnna Shimizu said the Year 9 Japanese students had been shocked by the

flooding in Brisbane last month.

One male student, Hayato Amaike, wrote: "I was surprised to hear that this happened in Australia. Many of (the) natural disasters in Japan are earthquakes, so I don't understand big floods. But I understand the terror of calamities."

Ms Shimizu said the money would go to 12 students and families who had been affected by January's floods.

The exchange program was

a reunion for some of the students, as Genesis pupils had visited Minokamo last September.

The visitors managed to fit in trips to Moreton Island and Surfers Paradise and learnt how to whip up a batch of Anzac biscuits.

Ms Shimizu said the guests had enjoyed their week, despite the heat.

"It snowed in their region two weeks ago so Monday's heat was a real shock to them," she said.