



# Students hooked up to play games

**S**CHOOL students as young as 12 have been hooked up to machines to play computer games – safely.

The students were taking part in a workshop called 'Human body meets machine', which was part of the holiday program for gifted students run by the Gifted Education Research Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) at the University of NSW.

The machines read the electrical signals made naturally when muscles are used. In this case, students flexed their arm muscles. The computer records and interprets the signals, then moves the figure in the computer game as a result.

"The interaction between the human body and machines is a really big area of research," says Dr Stephen Redmond, a lecturer in the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications.

"It's really important in terms of improving robotics, prostheses or helping improve the lives of limb amputees, for example."

Fifteen-year-old James Sewell from Bathurst High School has been coming to GERRIC pro-



**GIFTED:** James Sewell from Bathurst High was a participant in a program for gifted students run at the University of NSW. 012615/pressphoto

grams since he was in primary school and said he enjoyed this workshop the most.

"GERRIC's holiday programs are truly a gift to gifted students," says GERRIC director Professor Miraca Gross.

"They allow very bright young people to work on mate-

rial that really challenges them with other young people who have similar abilities and interests. For many gifted students, that opportunity is simply not available in school. Here at UNSW they can allow their minds to soar, and many make friendships that last for years."