2025 STANSW Young Scientist Awards

Emma Lim Pymble Ladies' College

Project Title: Immune Genes In Emperor Penguins Reveal Low Diversity In Declining Breeding Populations, Suggesting Vulnerability To Sea-Ice Pathogens

Year 11 to 12 **Scientific Investigations - Biology**

Dear Emma,

Congratulations on being part of this year's Young Scientist Awards and for the thought, care, and originality you brought to your project. You've demonstrated genuine initiative in designing and carrying out your own ideas – an achievement that reflects both curiosity and persistence.

Our judges reviewed your project in detail, considering how clearly you explored your question, how well you supported your conclusions, and how effectively you communicated your process. Their feedback below highlights the aspects that were particularly strong and offers suggestions to help you extend your thinking even further – much like the peer review process used in professional research.

The strengths of your project include:

- selecting an area of study that has relevance to problems/issues in the wider world
- using assistance from mentors to carefully plan your investigation

Next time, you could make your project even better by:

- outlining directions for further research

Thank you for sharing your work with us, it is a testament to your growing capability as an investigator, communicator, and creative thinker. We hope this experience strengthens your confidence and inspires you to keep pursuing questions that matter to you..

Philippa Miller
Young Scientist Coordinator