



## Pulu Keeling National Park

### PROTECTING THE ENDANGERED COCOS BUFF-BANDED RAIL

*This project involves practical action to improve the long-term viability of the Cocos buff-banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi*) through improved monitoring of populations.*

## Year 1 update (2-year project)

### OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

- A camera monitoring system was established on Horsburgh Island and results show the reintroduced Cocos buff-banded rails are dispersing across different habitats on the island.
- From October 2014 to May 2015 survey results show the population of rails had more than doubled, from 54 to more than 100. A follow up survey in October 2015 showed the population had remained at this size.
- Monitoring shows the birds have independently dispersed to Direction Island. Monitoring also shows invasive species such as rats and cats have not been found at either Horsburgh Island or Direction Island.
- Monthly inspections of camera images at Horsburgh Island will continue and another rail survey is slated for April 2016.
- Invasive species will continue to be monitored to ensure rails have the best chance of survival.



A camera image of five Cocos buff-banded rail chicks.