Professor Pat Walsh, Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington, invites you to the Inaugural Professorial Lecture to be given by Susan Balandin, Director of the Jessie Hetherington Centre for Educational Research.

‘I raise my eyes to say yes’: Negotiating conversations with little or no functional speech

If I were granted one wish and one wish only, I would not hesitate for an instant to request that I be able to talk, if only for one day, or even one hour (Sienkiewiicz-Mercer, R., 1989)

We take speech for granted and yet, for some people, speech is not an effective means of communication. Communication technology is one of the most rapidly advancing areas within the field of speech and language disorders. Nevertheless, the expected benefits are not reflected in increased community participation. People with a lifelong disability who rely on non-speech communication modes rarely enter tertiary education, have low rates of employment and are frequently isolated within their communities. Professor Susan Balandin will focus on some key communication issues and suggest how communities could support the participation of those who cannot speak, but have much to say.

Refreshments will be served following the lecture.

RSVP by Friday 21 June. Phone: 04-463 6390 or email: rsvp@vuw.ac.nz with ‘Balandin’ in the subject line.