

No use-by date on working

When you hear the words “new employee”, your mind may not automatically jump to 61-year-old ex-librarians. But that was exactly the case last month when Jill Natalier secured a job at Cornubia’s Primary Plants. *News* journalist **Mark Flack** spoke with the new worker and her decision to return to the workforce.

AGE is no barrier to employment and Jill Natalier is proof of this.

Earlier this year, the 61-year-old decided to return to the workforce after an absence of more than six years.

Ms Natalier spent three weeks searching for work by herself before signing up for a job-seeking course.

But she didn’t get a chance to finish it.

One day, immediately following a workshop on interview techniques, she received a call to attend an interview that afternoon.

By the same time the next day, she had been offered the job.

And, according to Ms Natalier, becoming part of Logan’s growing mature-aged workforce came as a bit of a shock.

“Well, I didn’t expect to find

anything at all. I thought my age would work against me and that people had the same idea that I did about my age,” she said.

“I thought most employers would only get as far as the age on my resume and throw it away. “But it’s all worked out really well for me.”

In a letter she wrote to employment agency, Sarina Russo, she said “you can now tell your classes about this old dame who said she couldn’t get a job and she did, so anyone can.”

Ms Natalier now works as an office assistant with Primary Plants which operates from Cornubia’s Tara Valley Nursery. She said it wasn’t a massive departure from her previous role as a teacher-librarian with Marsden State High School.

“I’m working in an office now.

In the library, it was all about keeping systems in place, so it’s not as big a change as you would imagine,” she said.

Sarina Russo Job Access Logan manager Michael Leistner said he hoped other older people would take heart after hearing the story.

He said even after long absences from the workforce, older people needed to know employment was not closed to them.

“Mature-aged job seekers shouldn’t be deterred because they’re not as quick at some things or not up with the latest technology,” he said.

“They’ve got a lot of valuable skills and life experience to offer business and if you have a can-do attitude, you’ll come up trumps in the employment market.”

