

The Hub 2026 Guidelines

One-on-One Appointments

2026 Omega Writers Conference

How the Hub Works

The Hub gives conference delegates exclusive one-on-one appointments with publishers, literary agents, editors, writing coaches, and industry specialists. Whether you are seeking publication, wanting professional feedback on your manuscript, or looking for guidance on marketing and building your author platform, the Hub has someone who can help.

Browse the specialists below, check what they are offering and review any pre-submission requirements. For conference delegates only.

Book your [preferred appointment here](#). No more than two appointments.

IMPORTANT: Some specialists require material to be submitted BEFORE the conference. Please check each specialist's submission deadline and requirements carefully and ensure you submit your material on time. Remember, this is an opportunity to show your professionalism.

Name	Category	Appointments available	Pre-submission Deadline	Mode & Dates
Angela Mackey	Marketing / Coach	12	14 August	In-Person / 16-18 Oct
Carolyn Miller	Author / Adviser	4	14 August	Online / 16 & 17 Oct
Dan Balow	Literary Agent	5	2 October	Online / 16 & 17 Oct
Donna Harris	Publisher	3	2 October	Online / 12 Oct
Jen Babakhan	Literary Agent	4	No material required	Online / 18 Oct
Justine Grayson	Publisher	8	2 October	In-Person / 17 Oct
Katrina Roe	Author / Writing Adviser	3	11 September	In-Person / 17 Oct
Kiara Thomas	Editor / Specialist	8	14 August	In-Person / 17 Oct
Larry J. Leech II	Editor / Coach	8	2 October	Online / 16 & 17 Oct
Meredith Resce	Author / Adviser	3	11 September	In-Person / 17 Oct
Nola Passmore	Editor / Writing Coach	3	11 September	In-Person / 16 & 17 Oct
Rochelle Stephens	Publisher	6	11 September	In-Person / 16 & 17 Oct

Name	Category	Appointments available	Pre-submission Deadline	Mode & Dates
Rowena Beresford	Publisher	6	11 September	Online / 10 Oct
Tamela Hancock Murray	Literary Agent	2	No material required	Online / 17 Oct

Quick Reference Guide (in alphabetical order) **CATEGORY 1: PUBLISHERS**

Please carefully review what each publisher is currently seeking before booking.

Donna Harris

Authentic Media (UK)

Appointments available: October 12 (NOTE: this is *before* the conference)

Bio: In the last 10 years, my role has been General Manager for Authentic Media. It is a real privilege partnering with authors who share our passion to provide resources that help people connect with Jesus. We are a small and friendly team, who love to partner with authors to bring out the best in your books. We consider our authors to be part of the Authentic family.

What Donna Offers

- Publishing advice (traditional publishing)
- Marketing advice
- Pitching opportunities

Types of Manuscripts Currently Sought: We accept manuscripts for consideration. We do accept proposals from first-time authors. We are always on the lookout for great biographies and books that bring people closer to God, whether they are devotionals, or books on spirituality and Christian life. We also have our Paternoster academic imprint for theological and leadership books. Please note that we don't commission fiction, poetry or children's picture books.

Pre-Submission Requirements: A couple of chapters and the completed submission form – available at the [Authentic Media website](#).

Deadline: 2 October

Justine Grayson

Grace Bell Publishing

Appointments available: October 17

Bio: Grace Bell Publishing is a newly established (est. 2025) Australian publishing company dedicated to creating wholesome, funny, and hope-filled stories. Founded by former

Australian literary agent Justine Grayson, who prefers to work quietly behind the scenes, we create uplifting, beautifully made books that families can trust and enjoy. Grace Bell Publishing operates on a traditional royalty model, partnering with talented Australian authors to share their stories with care and excellence.

What Justine Offers

- Publishing advice (traditional publishing)
- Editorial feedback/critique for manuscripts
- Editorial feedback/critique for book proposals
- Pitching opportunities

Types of Manuscripts Currently Sought: Fiction - kids, teen and adult fiction. 'Wholesome and fun'

Pre-Submission Requirements: One-page synopsis, first ten pages of manuscript and short author bio

Deadline: 2 October

Rochelle Stephens

Wombat Books | Rhiza Edge | Living Stone Books

Appointments available: October 16 & 17

Bio: Rochelle Stephens is the editor and publisher at Wombat Books. She is passionate about great books with the motto of Stories you will want to share.

Rochelle is also an author in both educational writing and her *Riz Chester* series, with *The Fingerprint Code* having been shortlisted in 2024 Speech Pathology awards and *The Counterfeit Bust* winning the CALEB early reader award in 2024. She has completed her Masters in Editing and Publishing with a thesis exploring middle fiction considering what children want to read and how to recommend books.

Rochelle considers manuscripts for Wombat Books (trade children's publishing list), Rhiza Edge (teen) and specifically Christian stories for Living Stone Books.

What Rochelle Offers

- Publishing advice (traditional publishing)
- Marketing advice
- Author branding advice
- Editorial feedback/critique for manuscripts
- Editorial feedback/critique for book proposals
- Pitching opportunities

Types of Manuscripts Currently Sought: Middle Grade Fiction, Trade and Christian fiction, young adult fiction, adult fiction.

Pre-Submission Requirements: First 2,000 words (for editorial submissions)

Deadline: 11 September

Rowena Beresford

Riveted Press

Appointments available: October 10 (NOTE: this is *before* the conference)

Bio: Rowena Beresford is the Managing Editor of Riveted Press, where she works closely with new and emerging authors. Our tagline is 'Where unforgettable stories are forged', and that epitomises the potential we are looking for. Riveted Press is proud to be the publisher of unforgettable books by Australian authors and illustrators—many of which have featured in awards.

What Rowena Offers

- General writing advice
- Publishing advice (traditional publishing)
- Editorial feedback/critique for manuscripts
- Editorial feedback/critique for book proposals

Pre-Submission Requirements: synopsis and first three chapters

Deadline: 11 September

CATEGORY 2: AGENTS

Agents can offer editorial, publishing and author branding advice. Some offer pitching opportunities. Please read their information carefully before booking an appointment.

Dan Balow

The Steve Laube Agency

Appointments available: October 16 & 17

Bio: Working with and for Christian publishers in the US for over 40 years. Experience is in the business side of publishing rather than editorial, but I have been involved in acquiring new books, marketing, sales, and international rights management, as well as several years in audiobook publishing. Started working as a literary agent with The Steve Laube Agency in 2013. www.stevelaube.com

What Dan Offers:

- Publishing advice (traditional publishing)
- Marketing advice
- Author branding advice
- Pitching opportunities

Types of Manuscripts Currently Sought: Nonfiction and a limited number of books for children.

Pre-Submission Requirements: Proposal or one-sheet

Deadline: 2 October

Jen Babakhan

Books & Such Literary Management

Appointments available: October 18

Prior to becoming an agent, Jen graduated with a degree in Communications and began a career as a Marketing Specialist for an international non-profit, where she worked to bring brand recognition and growth within the industry. She later transitioned into a more family-friendly teaching career, before writing professionally as a freelance and ghost writer when her two children came along. She's the author of two books, *Detoured: The Messy, Grace-Filled Journey from Working Professional to Stay at Home Mom*, and *Disrupted: Finding Peace With a Parent's Terminal Illness*. Jen wrote for *Reader's Digest* from 2017 to 2021, and her work has been featured in various national outlets. Above all, Jen enjoys serving God through serving others, and encouraging writers to use their gifts to serve Him in their lives. Jen acquires nonfiction and fiction submissions. She lives in California with her husband, two children, and two incredibly stubborn Shih Tzus.

What Jen Offers

- General writing advice
- Publishing advice (traditional publishing)
- Marketing advice
- Author branding advice
- Editorial feedback/critique for manuscripts
- Editorial feedback/critique for book proposals
- Pitching opportunities

Types of Manuscripts Currently Sought: Fiction-historical, romance, romantic suspense, contemporary with strong female characters and compelling, unique storytelling, and Nonfiction- devotionals, Bible studies, Christian Living, Self-Help, Mental Health

Pre-Submission Requirements: Jen does not require material to be pre-submitted.

Tamela Hancock Murray

The Steve Laube Agency

Appointments available: October 17

Bio: Tamela Hancock Murray has been a literary agent since 2001 and was awarded the title Agent of the Year by ACFW. She is a bestselling author of over thirty Christian novels, novellas, and nonfiction books, and won an RWA Inspirational Readers Choice Award. Tamela currently confines her public writing to blog posts for The Steve Laube Agency. Tamela brings the perspective of a working writer to her role as a literary agent. She gratefully approaches her career as an opportunity to serve. She represents many top authors and develops new talent. She enjoys living in Northern Virginia with her own knight in shining armor. They are the parents of two lovely, all-grown-up princesses. When not focused on her passion for being a literary agent, Tamela enjoys cooking and is always on the lookout for new recipes. As delicious aromas of dinner waft through the castle, Tamela loves reading all sorts of amazing books.

What Tamela Offers

- Publishing advice (traditional publishing)
- Pitching opportunities

Types of Manuscripts Currently Sought: Fiction including Romance, Romantic Suspense, Historical, and Romantic Comedy. Nonfiction written for the Christian market from authors with a significant platform. Not seeking YA, fantasy or science fiction, children's books, or poetry.

Pre-Submission Requirements: Tamela does not require material to be pre-submitted.

CATEGORY 3: FREELANCE EDITORS

These freelance editors can provide editorial and writing advice for writers seeking to take their work to the next level. Some also offer advice on platform development and marketing.

Kiara Thomas

Writer and Editor

Appointments available: October 17

Bio: Kiara Thomas is a communications specialist focusing on writing and editing. Kiara is particularly interested in editing faith-inspired works of all genres; writing and editing children's literature; and editing non-fiction, including memoirs and biographies.

Kiara is a member of the Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd), the Canberra Society of Editors (CSE), Omega Writers and Life Stories Australia. Kiara is dedicated to being an exceptional writer and editor and regularly undertakes professional development.

Kiara also has a minor in digital and social media, with a special interest in website copy, and information mapping and organisation.

Kiara describes herself as a "book midwife." She believes it is her mission to help you bring your book into the world. Kiara has a professional, yet friendly demeanour. She blends her editorial skills and industry knowledge with kindness and approachableness.

What Kiara Offers

- General writing advice
- Editorial feedback/critique for manuscripts
- Marketing advice
- Author branding advice
- Website appraisals
- Publishing advice (self/indie publishing)

Pre-Submission Requirements: For website appraisals, please provide website links and goals. For writing, editing and self-publishing advice, please provide the first 1,000 words, a logline, synopsis and an author bio. For marketing and branding advice, please provide website links, goals and an author bio.

Deadline: 14 August

Larry J. Leech II

L-2 Communications / Illumify Media

Appointments available: October 16 & 17

Bio: Usually with a hot beverage nearby, Larry J. Leech II spends his days working with words. He is the writing coach of award-winning authors and a freelance editor in the

inspirational market, as well as Acquisitions Editor and Master Book Coach at Illumify Media. More than forty years ago, Larry began his publishing career as a sportswriter in southwestern Pennsylvania where he covered prep and college sports, and the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers. In the early 2000s, after 2,300 published articles, Larry shifted to book publishing. Since that time, he has ghostwritten thirty-four books, edited more than 500 manuscripts, and coached hundreds of authors through the writing and publication process. For nearly two decades Larry has taught at numerous general market and inspirational conferences nationwide. When he has a minute, Larry likes to hang out on Facebook and Instagram. You can also find out more about him on his website: larryleech.com.

What Larry Offers

- General writing advice
- Editorial feedback/critique for manuscripts
- Editorial feedback/critique for book proposals
- Pitching opportunities (publisher/agent)
- Publishing advice (self/indie publishing)

Pre-Submission Requirements: First ten pages (for manuscript review) or Full proposal (for book proposal review)

Deadline: 2 October

Nola Passmore

The Write Flourish

Appointments available: October 16 & 17

Bio: Nola Passmore has a passion for faith and social justice issues, and loves weaving words that inspire others with courage and hope. She writes under the penname Nola Lorraine and her books include the inspirational historical novel '*Scattered*', the Christian devotional book '*Comfort Zone*', and the Christian charity anthology '*Glimpses of Light*' which she co-edited with Jeanette O'Hagan. Her second devotional book, '*No Standing Zone*', is also due to be published in 2026. She also has more than 150 short publications, including fiction, poetry, devotions, true stories, magazine articles and academic papers. She and her husband Tim run a freelance writing and editing business called 'The Write Flourish'. Nola specialises in fiction (adult and young adult), poetry, devotionals, memoirs and general nonfiction. She would love to help you add the right flourish to your manuscript.

What Nola Offers

- General writing advice
- Editorial feedback/critique for manuscripts
- Editorial feedback/critique for book proposals

Pre-Submission Requirements: Full proposal, or up to 1,500 words of a manuscript

Deadline: 11 September

CATEGORY 4: INDUSTRY EXPERTS

These specialists offer a broad range of services across writing, publishing, marketing, and branding – a great choice if you're unsure exactly what kind of help you need, or if you'd like guidance across multiple areas.

Angela Mackey

Rethinking My Thinking LLC

Appointments available: October 16, 17 & 18

Bio: I am a speaker, author, and podcaster who encourages people to live a life of worship in order to glorify God in all they do. I have one hybrid published book and am a part of three compilations. I love brainstorming ideas for marketing, branding, and content editing. I am an encourager who can challenge you to write focused tight nonfiction.

What Angela Offers

- Marketing advice
- Author branding advice
- Website appraisals
- Editorial feedback/critique for manuscripts
- Publishing advice (self/indie publishing)

Pre-Submission Requirements: Website link (for website appraisal), Manuscript excerpt (for editorial feedback), If you simply want to brainstorm ideas, no material needs to be submitted in advance.

Deadline: 14 August (if manuscript critique or website review is required)

Carolyn Miller

Appointments available: October 16 & 17

Bio: Carolyn Miller is an Australian author of over 50 novels, both historical and contemporary. She has experience in both traditional (US) and independent publishing and loves to encourage authors on their writing journey. Whether you are new to the writing world and wondering what step to take next to be published, or you have some experience and want some marketing or branding advice, Carolyn is able to provide invaluable honest and helpful feedback to help others achieve their goals and dreams.

What Carolyn Offers

- General writing advice
- Publishing advice (traditional publishing)
- Marketing advice
- Author branding advice
- Website appraisals
- Publishing advice (self/indie publishing)

Pre-Submission Requirements: For branding/marketing/website advice please forward website and social media links plus author bio. For writing/publishing advice, first chapters and/or proposal.

Deadline: 14 August

Katrina Roe

Appointments available: October 17

Bio: Katrina Roe is a children's author, book reviewer and media professional.

Katrina writes inclusive stories that inspire kids to face real-life challenges with courage and kindness. Her sixth picture book, *The Man Who Stood Up to Ned Kelly* is being published by Wombat Books in July and her first middle grade fantasy, *The Stolen Bairn* is being published by Riveted Press in June. Katrina worked in media for more than 25 years, was the long-term host of a morning radio show in Sydney and was the creator of two podcasts, *The Hope Book Club* and *Australia's Invisible History*. In her day job, Katrina works in marketing for a large regional library service and occasionally fills in on ABC Riverina. She writes on Wiradjuri Country in Wagga Wagga where she lives with her family.

What Katrina Offers

- General writing advice
- Marketing advice
- Editorial feedback/critique for manuscripts
- Editorial feedback/critique for book proposals

Pre-Submission Requirements: One-page synopsis, author bio and first chapter (or full picture book manuscript)

Deadline: 11 September

Meredith Resce

Appointments available: October 17

Bio: Meredith Resce has published over 25 titles over the last 28 years using both traditional publishing and indie publishing, with national and international distribution. She has consulted many writers in the early stages of their writing journey.

As a teacher she is able to clearly explain different options, and has experience in evaluating where a writer is at.

What Meredith Offers

- General writing advice
- Publishing advice (self/indie publishing)
- Consulting on publishing options and pathways

Pre-Submission Requirements

Deadline: 11 September

- Synopsis, first chapter, and proposal
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General Submission Guidelines for All Delegates

To make the most of your Hub appointment, please follow these guidelines:

- Book early – appointments are limited and fill quickly.
- If pre-submitting material:
 - Carefully check the pre-submission requirements before booking.
 - Submit your material by the stated deadline. Late material may not be reviewed. (You will receive the email address to submit to after booking.)
 - When submitting material via email, please use email subject line: Hub Appointment [your name].
 - Ensure all documents are clearly labelled with your name and contact details.
- For online appointments:
 - Your appointment link will be emailed to you prior to the conference.
 - It is your responsibility to ensure you have a stable internet connection and a quiet space for the session.
- Be respectful of session time and be professional in your interactions with the Hub experts.
- Any questions? Please read over these notes again. If you still have questions please contact Penny Reeve or Raewyn Elsegood.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Omega Writers Conference!