



Gay, Jewish and proud ... participants in this year's Dayenu Mardi Gras float.

Photo: Ingrid Shakenovsky

Dancing with pride

THERE were pink feather boas, a disco ball, gay-pride flags with Magen Davids flying high, and more than 70 people dancing behind a four-metre chuppah and Magen David.

This was Sydney's Jewish gay and lesbian group Dayenu's float, which celebrated love, commitment ceremonies and gay marriage, at the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade on March 7.

"It was fantastic that so many gay and lesbian Jews could come together to enjoy a night of celebrating who we are, and the progress that has been made in acknowledging gay relationships in a Jewish context," said Kim Gotlieb, who organised the float with Roy Freeman. "We had a lot of fun."

Dayenu chose the theme of this year's float to celebrate the move by the Union of Progressive Rabbis in Australia to allow gay and lesbian commitment ceremonies to be performed.

Aleph Melbourne and Young Aleph were also represented by Dayenu this year. Aleph Melbourne entered the Jewish Princesses float in the 1999 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade. The Jewish Princesses helped pave the way for the formation of Dayenu the following year.